

Suu Kyi mobbed by supporters after release

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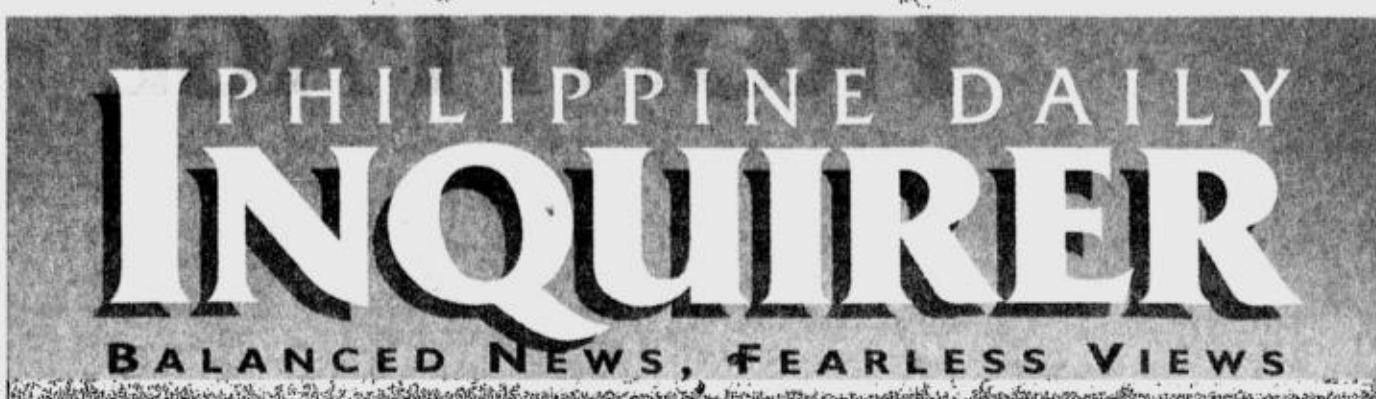
Peso rises to 49.78 against the US dollar

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO rose yesterday to a 13-month high against the dollar on the back of healthy dollar reserves, rising exports, tame inflation and improving investor sentiment.

The local currency breached the 50-to-a-dollar level in early trading and closed at

PESO/A14



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Tuesday, May 7, 2002 ★ 38 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 148 P15

website: www.inq7.net

'HIGHWAY ROBBERY'

P35-B pork sparks fight

Meet 'General Pacman:' Born on the 4th of July

By Frank Cimat

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tonette Orejas

PDI Central Luzon Desk

and Martin Marfil

BORN on July 4, 1946, the day the Philippines gained its independence from the United States, the incoming Armed Forces chief of staff is known in the military by—of all things—a Japanese-inspired nickname.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimat prefers to be described as "the son of public schoolteachers," but to officers and men he is simply "General Pacman."

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command and Cimat's "mistah" at the Philippine Military Academy, said the nickname was used "in a very respectable sense."

Like the computer game character that earns points by devouring dots, Cimat earned his moniker by capturing more than 40 rebel camps as commander of the Army's 4th Division at the height of the all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Defense reporter Ben Cal noted the

MEET/A14



INCOMING, outgoing: Lt. Gen. Roy Cimat (left), now chief of the Southern Command, will head the 130,000-strong military replacing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, who retires on May 20.

DENNIS SABANGAN

29TH AFP CHIEF OF STAFF

Cimat shares good news with men on the war front

By Carlito Pablo

and Julie S. Alipala

PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE MAN of the hour wore an ear-to-ear grin. "I am very happy and very much inspired," a beaming Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimat told reporters yesterday, on his appointment as the 29th Armed Forces chief of staff.

His first act was a gesture that helps

explain his popularity among the rank and file. He flew to Camp Cabunbata in Isabela, Basilan, to share the "good news" with the Scout Rangers, thanking them for their support and then joining them in an old military tradition: a "boodle fight," over boiled rice, grilled squid, fried chicken, sardines, beef menudo and grilled fish.

Saying he learned of the President's announcement through the media, he said he had "no idea" why the Presi-

dent chose him. But he added: "I would like to assure our President and likewise the Filipino people that I will do my best to lead the AFP."

Braving the objections of some active and retired military officers, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named Cimat to replace AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, who retires on May 20. Cimat is slated to retire on July 4, when he also turns 56.

Speaking in her weekly radio program, the President said she was extending Cimat's term to Sept. 1, despite warnings from military quarters that such a move will demoralize the officer corps.

Asserting that the choice of AFP chief of staff is the "total prerogative of the President," Ms. Macapagal said: "In fact, the President can even pick a colonel."

CIMATU/A14

P35-B/A14



THE LESS-TRAVELLED road to freedom in Burma leads to pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, at her political headquarters in Rangoon where she happily talks to her supporters upon her release on Monday after 19 months of house arrest.

Burma's Suu Kyi mobbed by supporters after release

RANGOON—Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was released yesterday from 19 months of house arrest and was mobbed by supporters at opposition headquarters where she made her first public appearance, the trademark flowers in her hair.

Hundreds of fans chanted "Long live Suu Kyi" as she was hustled into the hot, dilapidated

building by party members after slipping out of her lakeside Rangoon home by car.

"It's a new dawn for the country... we only hope the dawn will move very quickly into full morning," Suu Kyi said at the news conference.

Wearing a simple brown blouse and traditional blue-patterned skirt, Suu Kyi looked

composed and confident and joked with journalists.

Asked how her feelings on being released now were different from when she was released in 1995, she said: "It's a lot hotter today than it was the last time."

Her release, which came after secret talks with the government, has been among the top demands of the international

community, which has isolated Burma and imposed economic sanctions on the impoverished country in a bid to force change.

The military government announced Suu Kyi's release as a harbinger of further political freedoms, but observers weren't holding their breath. They urged caution with the junta that overruled her National League of

Democracy's overwhelming election victory in 1990.

"As of today, she is at liberty to carry out all activities, including her party's," a government spokesperson told Reuters before Suu Kyi left her home.

The junta said in a statement it had released hundreds of political prisoners in recent

BURMA'S/A13

How Filipino priests are shielded from scandal

By Armand N. Nocom

A CHARITY institution in Malabon is known to take in women impregnated by Catholic priests to prevent them from aborting the child in their wombs and provide them with natal care, spiritual healing and counseling.

It also shields priests, who have broken their vows of celibacy, from scandal.

This was disclosed to the INQUIRER by a priest who did not want to be named.

He said that the children born of these women at the Heart of Mary Villa are jokingly branded as "Church property" or "Pamangkin ni sister" (the sister's niece/nephew), as nuns and priests consider one another brothers and sisters.

After giving birth, the women at the Heart of Mary Villa are given the choice to either leave the baby behind or to keep the child.

The raging public scandal involving pedophile priests in the US has emboldened the INQUIRER source to

HOW/A13



Pinay worker wins P34.5M in Taiwan

By Frank Cimat

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TAIPEI—She need not slave in some foreign land for the rest of her life. But this 37-year-old overseas Filipino worker has yet to make up her mind on whether to return home and retire in comfort.

The Filipina warehouse caretaker, who requested that she be identified only as "Yuli," won NT\$1 million (P34.5 million) in a weekly long

PINAY/A13

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Senate word war: Angara fires back at Arroyo, Pangilinan

By Rocky Nazareno

A PEEVED Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday shot back at administration Senators Joker Arroyo and Francis Pangilinan of "poisoning the well of goodwill and fraternity" in the Senate after they criticized him for branding President Macapagal-Arroyo as "inept, insecure and paranoid" about destabilization moves.

"It is lamentable and I am truly sad about the statement of a colleague (Arroyo)," said Angara, who spoke on collective and personal privilege.

Angara was reacting to statements made by Arroyo and Pangilinan, who launched a tirade against the opposition senator for criticizing the President and withdrawing the "critical cooperation" of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino from the administration.

Arroyo accused Angara of "creating his own phantoms" and chided him for withdrawing a "critical collaboration" that was not given by the

opposition to the majority in the first place.

Arroyo added that Angara had even been reluctant to cooperate in the passage of the bill that would increase the salaries of those in the judiciary and the proposal that would allow private prosecutors to help the Ombudsman in prosecuting graft cases.

Pangilinan alleged that Angara he did not have the right to criticize the Macapagal administration as "inept" because he himself had been part of the Estrada leadership, which was ousted by People Power 2 in 2001.

Pangilinan accused Angara of not doing anything to avert the alleged anomalies that rocked Estrada administration.

The statements drew the ire of Angara. "The minority has been cooperative in all the bills (proposed by the majority) that had been passed. We did not obstruct or delay the process. That is why, the statement of Senator Arroyo, sarcastic at that, is quite lamentable," Angara said.

Angara, likewise, pointed out that while the LDP had been one of the parties which intended to join the recently concluded political summit, the party

decided on a boycott after the massive crackdown on pro-Estrada rallyists who were blocked from going to Manila from the provinces.

It's Red Cross Day tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross will join the 178 national member societies of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the International Committee of the Red Cross in paying tribute to the founder of the movement, Henry Dunant, who was born on May 8, 1828.

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Time running out on DENR chief at CA

By Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno

THE RULING Lakas-NUCD party is reportedly putting out all the stops to get Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez confirmed by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Alvarez, the secretary general of the party who faces the body anew on Wednesday, will first have to hurdle the CA's committee on environment chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and then the bicameral body in plenary session.

If Alvarez is again bypassed, it "could mean the end of the line," said an administration official who asked not to be named.

Alvarez, who failed to get the nod of the CA once before, was re-appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The President may find it politically costly to again re-appoint Alvarez," the source said.

The Reporma party of former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa is reportedly interested in putting its own candidate in the environment department in case Alvarez fails to be confirmed.

At least 21 individuals have filed their opposition to Alvarez's appointment before the CA, not including the Southern Tagalog and Mindanao bloc of representatives, which have also expressed their opposition to his confirmation.

In her weekly radio interview yesterday, Ms Macapagal said she has been campaigning with some CA members to help her Cabinet members secure confirmation.

Another Alvarez in the Cabinet—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez—has also been encountering problems with the CA.

There has been widespread talk that one of the Alvarezes would not be reappointed if they fail to pass the CA's scrutiny.

In the same interview, Ms Macapagal said she was retaining Winston Garcia as president of the Government Service Insurance System.

There were earlier reports that Garcia was to be taken out of the state-run pension fund.

At the resumption of the confirmation hearings on the transportation secretary yesterday, Dante Canlas, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority Dante Canlas, testified that the build-operate-transfer contract for the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 was "advantageous to the government."

Canlas appeared before the CA for a "clarificatory testimony" on the legality of the contract that the government concluded with the Philippine International Air Terminal Corp. (Platco).

Those opposing Alvarez's confirmation have assailed the agreement.

"Based on the Neda secretariat review, all three supplements are consistent with the original concession agreement as well as with the amended and restated concession agreement," Canlas testified.

Court rejects Jinggoy bid for hospital move

By Volt Contreras

FORMER San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada will not be leaving his Veterans Memorial and Medical Center detention suite anytime soon.

Yesterday the Sandiganbayan rejected his request to be allowed to be confined at the Juan Medical Center for 10 to 15 days for treatment of rectal bleeding and to undergo a "major weight reduction program."

The anti-graft court said he failed to show that such treatments could not be done at the VMCM where he and his father, deposed ex-President Joseph Estrada, are being detained.

The court deemed "meritorious" the prosecution's contention that the VMCM was equipped to provide the medical services sought and that Jinggoy's transfer would entail additional public spending for his security.

Also yesterday, the counsels de oficio of Joseph Estrada proposed a "diplomatic" arrangement under which their client could be allowed to go to the United States for knee surgery.

Irene Jurado, one of Estrada's 13 court-appointed lawyers, invoked the "principle of extraterritoriality" under which the disgraced ex-president would be

placed under the responsibility of the Philippine ambassador throughout his US stay.

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US navyman stabbed at pier

A UNITED States Navy sentinel taking part in the just-concluded joint military exercises was attacked and wounded by knife-wielding assailants on a US vessel docked at the Manila South Harbor yesterday.

David Edward Spencer, a dental technician, sustained lacerations in the lower chin and in the neck but was later pronounced in stable condition at the Manila Doctors Hospital, said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, the acting military spokesperson.

Spencer was guarding the perimeter of the USS

Fort McHenry at the pier when he was attacked. The attackers escaped and a joint US-Philippine team was now investigating the incident, Abaya said. Four witnesses were questioned yesterday. "I don't think robbery is the motive here," said Abaya without elaborating. The USS Fort McHenry is one of the US Navy's most modern landing ships and had participated in the two-week Balikatan 02-2 joint exercises which officially ended yesterday. **Martin P. Marfil and AFP**

Energy chief chides Napocor for 'PPA-or-blackout' threat

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday "castigated" National Power Corp. officials for suggesting that a withdrawal of purchased power adjustment payments by consumers would result in 10-hour blackouts.

The PPA pertains to the cost of electricity that distribution utilities buy from Napocor and independent power producers. It accounts for about half of consumers' monthly electricity bills. "I have warned Napocor against issuing uncalled for statements and ordered (its officials) to clarify the issue to ease the anxiety of the public," Perez said in a statement.

He said 10-hour blackouts were unlikely to happen if PPA payments were deferred.

In the same statement, Napocor officials said fears about 10-hour blackouts were unfounded.

"We have significantly built up our system capacity in the last decade precisely because we do not want a repeat of the power crisis in the early 1990s," Roland Quilala, Napocor officer in charge/president, said.

He said Napocor's installed capacity was now 12,694 megawatts while the highest energy demand per day reached only 7,869 mw.

Perez said that two bills aiming to reduce PPA costs were filed at the Senate and the House yesterday and had been certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The bills propose immediate relief for consumers by as much as 80

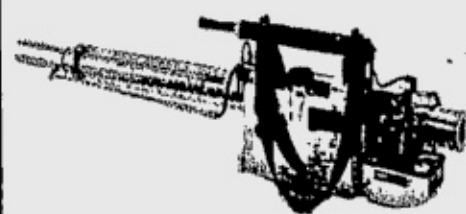
centavos per kilowatt-hour, Perez said. "The bills are only a temporary measure, but we are optimistic that power rates will significantly (go down) as soon as we feel all the benefits of power industry restructuring," Perez said.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), meanwhile, has assured the public that the cost adjustment mechanisms in the power rate would not mean additional profits for power distributors.

The cost adjustment mechanisms include the PPA, the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) and the currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera).

The automatic cost adjustments "are not meant to increase or add to the profits of the electric power utilities," the ERC said in a primer for public distribution. **Ronnel W. Domingo**

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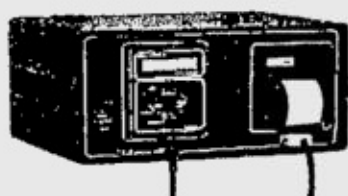
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WORLD ASTHMA DAY
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WHAT IS ASTHMA?

Asthma is a chronic, inflammatory lung disease characterized by recurrent breathing problems. During normal breathing, air flows freely in and out of the lungs. But, during an asthma attack, the lining of the airways swells, muscles around the airways tighten and mucus clogs the tiny airways in the lungs, making breathing difficult. The airways become overly responsive to environmental changes, resulting in wheezing and coughing.

Asthma symptoms vary from hour-to-hour, day-to-day, week-to-week and over months. They are often worse at night and in the early hours of the morning. The severity of asthma varies from individual to individual. Some patients have occasional symptoms (for example after strenuous exercise), others have symptoms that interfere with daily life yet others have a very severe, relentless disease that almost excludes them from normal school and work activities.

WHAT CAUSES ASTHMA?

People with asthma have airways that narrow more easily than non-asthmatics and are usually allergic to inhaled allergens. The causes of the airway abnormality and its relationship to being allergic are not known. A variety of factors can set off an asthma attack including viral infections; exposure to allergens (e.g. dust mites, protein particles shed by cats and dogs and pollen); exercise; tobacco smoke; air pollution; strong emotional expressions; chemical irritants; and drugs (aspirin and beta blockers). Each person with asthma reacts to a different set of factors. Identification of these factors in an individual is a major step towards learning how to control an asthma attack. Many scientists are studying the role genetic factors play in asthma.

WHO GETS ASTHMA?

The World Health Organization estimates that between 100 and 150 million people around the globe suffer from asthma and this number is rising. World wide, deaths from this condition have reached over

180,000 annually. Asthma is a public health problem for both developed and developing countries. It occurs in all age groups and all ethnic groups. However, it often starts in childhood. Indeed, asthma is the single most common chronic disease causing absence from school. Studies have documented the prevalence of asthma in our country in all age group to be between 15 - 17%.

WHY IS ASTHMA INCREASING?

The rapid rise of asthma around the world is one of the biggest mysteries in modern medicine. Research on this problem has focused on environmental allergens and viral infections in infants and young children. Ten years ago, scientists thought that diesel exhaust and other pollutants might be causing the asthma epidemic. However, they now believe that the picture is more complex. In addition to studies to examine the role of genetic factors in the development of asthma, researchers are looking at the immune system in early life.

HOW IS ASTHMA DIAGNOSED?

A careful medical history, physical examination and tests of pulmonary function provide information needed for a diagnosis of asthma. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness and cough, worse particularly at night or in the early hours of the morning. Symptoms occur or worsen in the presence of exercise, allergens, irritants and viral infections. Young children whose primary symptom is a cough or who wheeze with respiratory infections are often misdiagnosed as having bronchitis or pneumonia (including acute respiratory infection, ARI) and thus are ineffectively treated with antibiotics or cough suppressants. Tobacco smokers and elderly patients frequently suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with symptoms similar to asthma. Yet they may also have asthma and benefit from treatment.

Measures of lung function are useful both for diagnosis and to monitor the course of asthma. Such tests include spirometry to provide an assessment of airflow limitation and peak flow to measure the maximum

speed at which air can flow out of the lungs. Spirometry is performed in the clinician's office. On the other hand, peak flow meters are portable, plastic and ideal for use in home and work settings and thus provide most patients and their health care provider an effective method to evaluate response to therapy and detect early signs of deterioration.

Allergic component in asthma is seen in 90% of children, 50% in adults <30 years of age, 35% in adults >30 years of age. Skin testing for aeroallergens will enable the patient to identify and avoid these allergens and consequently improve quality of life.

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Control of asthma is defined as the absence of symptoms and acute attacks, no use of relief medication, no emergency room visits, normal activity level, including exercise and normal lung function. This can be achieved in almost all patients and with no side effects from medications. Control of asthma can be achieved through the implementation of an effective asthma management program. The GINA program includes a six point plan:

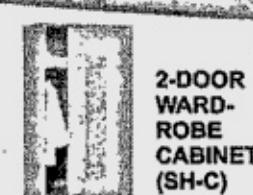
- Educate patients to develop a partnership in asthma management
- Assess and monitor severity with measures of symptoms and lung function
- Avoid or control factors that cause asthma
- Establish medication plans for long-term management
- Establish plans for managing asthma attacks
- Provide regular follow-up care

Two types of medications are used: long term preventive medications (especially anti-inflammatory agents such as inhaled corticosteroids) that keep symptoms and attacks from starting, and quick relief medications (short-acting bronchodilators) that work fast to treat attacks or relieve symptoms.

For those with allergic triggers to their asthma, allergen immunotherapy offers an excellent therapeutic option for control where allergen exposure cannot be totally eliminated.

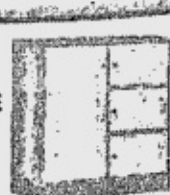
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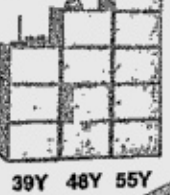


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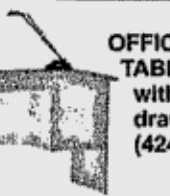
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**ENTERTAINMENT
CENTER
(SH2003-ES)**



**OFFICE
TABLE
with side
drawers
(424)**



**STUDY
TABLE
w/ LIGHT
(AST 30)**



**CHAIR
(ZF035)**



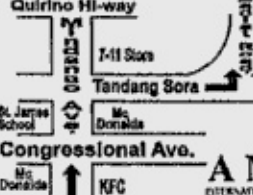
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #A3-254, SERIES OF 2002.

US navyman stabbed at pier

A UNITED States Navy sentinel taking part in the just-concluded joint military exercises was attacked and wounded by knife-wielding assailants on a US vessel docked at the Manila South Harbor yesterday.

David Edward Spencer, a dental technician, sustained lacerations in the lower chin and in the neck but was later pronounced in stable condition at the Manila Doctors Hospital, said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, the acting military spokesperson.

Spencer was guarding the perimeter of the USS

Fort McHenry at the pier when he was attacked.

The attackers escaped and a joint US-Philippine team was now investigating the incident, Abaya said.

Four witnesses were questioned yesterday. "I don't think robbery is the motive here," said Abaya without elaborating.

The USS Fort McHenry is one of the US Navy's most modern landing ships and had participated in the two-week Balikatan 02-2 joint exercises which officially ended yesterday. **Martin P. Marfil and AFP**

Energy chief chides Napocor for 'PPA-or-blackout' threat

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday "castigated" National Power Corp. officials for suggesting that a withdrawal of purchased power adjustment payments by consumers would result in 10-hour blackouts.

The PPA pertains to the cost of electricity that distribution utilities buy from Napocor and independent power producers. It accounts for about half of consumers' monthly electricity bills.

"I have warned Napocor against issuing uncalled for statements and ordered (its officials) to clarify the issue to ease the anxiety of the public," Perez said in a statement.

He said 10-hour blackouts were unlikely to happen if PPA payments were deferred.

In the same statement, Napocor officials said fears about 10-hour blackouts were unfounded.

"We have significantly built up our system capacity in the last decade precisely because we do not want a repeat of the power crisis in the early 1990s," Roland Quilala, Napocor officer in charge/president, said.

He said Napocor's installed capacity was now 12,694 megawatts while the highest energy demand per day reached only 7,869 mw.

Perez said that two bills aiming to reduce PPA costs were filed at the Senate and the House yesterday and had been certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The bills propose immediate relief for consumers by as much as 80

centavos per kilowatt-hour, Perez said.

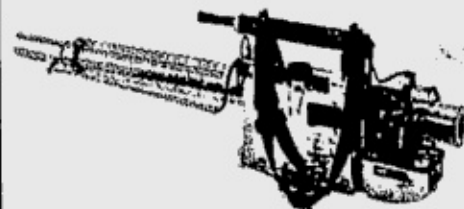
"The bills are only a temporary measure, but we are optimistic that power rates will significantly (go down) as soon as we feel all the benefits of power industry restructuring," Perez said.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), meanwhile, has assured the public that the cost adjustment mechanisms in the power rate would not mean additional profits for power distributors.

The cost adjustment mechanisms include the PPA, the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) and the currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera).

The automatic cost adjustments "are not meant to increase or add to the profits of the electric power utilities," the ERC said in a primer for public distribution. **Ronnel W. Domingo**

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Lambda factor	0,6...1,4	0,01%
O2	0...25%	0,01%
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Makati City, Philippines

Telephone: (632) 816-0755, (632) 754-6281, (632) 754 6277
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WORLD ASTHMA DAY
2002

WHAT IS ASTHMA?

Asthma is a chronic, inflammatory lung disease characterized by recurrent breathing problems. During normal breathing, air flows freely in and out of the lungs. But, during an asthma attack, the lining of the airways swells, muscles around the airways tighten and mucus clogs the tiny airways in the lungs, making breathing difficult. The airways become overly responsive to environmental changes, resulting in wheezing and coughing.

Asthma symptoms vary from hour-to-hour, day-to-day, week-to-week and over months. They are often worse at night and in the early hours of the morning. The severity of asthma varies from individual to individual. Some patients have occasional symptoms (for example after strenuous exercise), others have symptoms that interfere with daily life yet others have a very severe, relentless disease that almost excludes them from normal school and work activities.

WHAT CAUSES ASTHMA?

People with asthma have airways that narrow more easily than non-asthmatics and are usually allergic to inhaled allergens. The causes of the airway abnormality and its relationship to being allergic are not known. A variety of factors can set off an asthma attack including viral infections; exposure to allergens (e.g. dust mites, protein particles shed by cats and dogs and pollen); exercise; tobacco smoke; air pollution; strong emotional expressions; chemical irritants; and drugs (aspirin and beta blockers). Each person with asthma reacts to a different set of factors. Identification of these factors in an individual is a major step towards learning how to control an asthma attack. Many scientists are studying the role genetic factors play in asthma.

WHO GETS ASTHMA?

The World Health Organization estimates that between 100 and 150 million people around the globe suffer from asthma and this number is rising. World wide, deaths from this condition have reached over

180,000 annually. Asthma is a public health problem for both developed and developing countries. It occurs in all age groups and all ethnic groups. However, it often starts in childhood. Indeed, asthma is the single most common chronic disease causing absence from school. Studies have documented the prevalence of asthma in our country in all age group to be between 15 - 17%.

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ENTER- TAINMENT CENTER (SH2003-ES)	OFFICE TABLE with drawers (424)	STUDY TABLE w/ LIGHT (AST 30)
CHAIR (ZF035)	FOUR SEATER DINING SET STARTER (10PE-3048CT)	EXECUTIVE CHAIR (F2070H)
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PER DTNCR PERMIT #A3-204, SERIES OF 2002

Tancangco blames finance dep't for Comelec fund mess

By Blanche S. Rivera

ELECTIONS Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday tagged finance officers of the Commission on Elections in the allegedly irregular release of some P41 million in cash advances to non-bonded employees, saying her signature was just ministerial in the approval of the cash advances.

Tancangco pulled out her guns on the Comelec's Finance Services Department after the P41 million cash advances, which is being questioned by the Commission on Audit, was cited by the National Movement for Free Elections as a ground for her impeachment.

She said the FSD should have reviewed all the applications for cash advances before endorsing these to her for signature. She added that the forms for the approval and release of the cash advances by the contractual employees should have gone through a thorough verification process before they reach her office.

She said the FSD composed of the processing, budget, accounting and internal audit sections, is the one that checks eligibility of the employees that apply for a cash advance and has the authority to reject applications.

"Actually, I'm not the

one being hit by the accusations here," Tancangco said in an interview yesterday. "It's the FSD because when I sign, it should have passed through a verification process al-

ready. This is a joint thing."

She said the heads of the various sections under the FSD at that time—Fe Campos for budget, Beth Balbacal for processing, Cita

Castellon for accounting, Agnes Carreon for internal audit and Imelda Dulay for bonds—are also accountable for the release of the money. But Tancangco in-

sisted that even if the release of the cash advances had been irregular, it was "not an im-

peachable offense" and would not constitute sufficient ground for her to be booted out by

Congress from the poll body.

The Namfrel, a private elections watch-

dog, has started circulating its summary of charges against Tancangco for a signature

campaign that would boost Tancangco's impeachment in Congress.

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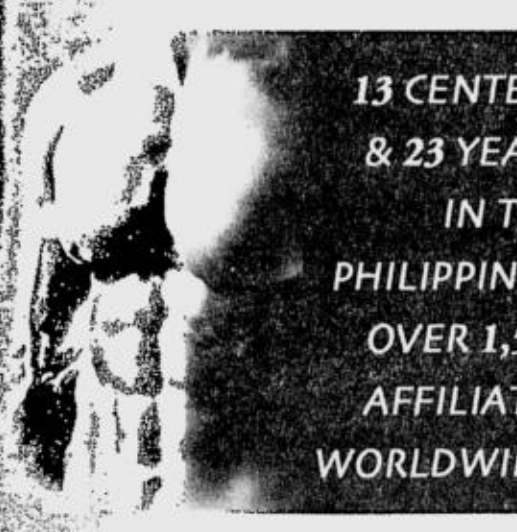
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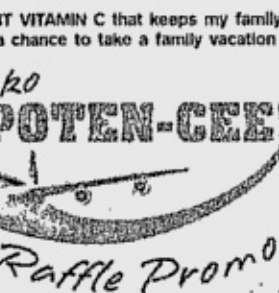
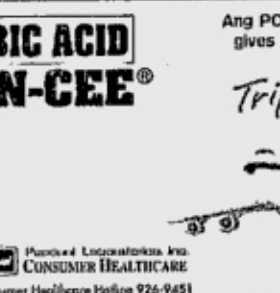
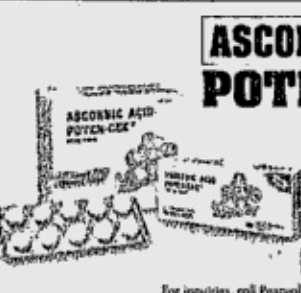
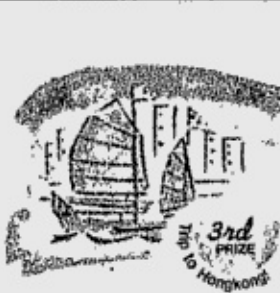
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0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8800 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-0234.



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Consensus at the summit

THE MAJOR accomplishment of the recently concluded First Philippine Political Parties Conference was its agreement on the need for constitutional, political and electoral reforms. Now, the next step is to translate this consensus into programs and proposals that can be enacted into law or implemented by executive agencies of the government.

EDITORIAL

It is unfortunate that the two major opposition parties—Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino of Sen. Edgardo Angara and PDP-Laban of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel—boycotted the political summit. Their participation could have ensured a truly bipartisan agreement on how to tackle the nation's political and economic problems. But Angara's assurance that the LDP would support measures to cleanse the political system of fraud and corruption gives us some measure of hope.

The most important decision of the political summit was to have the Constitution amended through a constitutional convention after 2004. To begin with, the Charter is long, wordy document that can give one a headache if he reads it in one sitting. It has to be condensed and edited for style to make it easier to read. Provisions which have no place in a constitution but only in ordinary legislation should be deleted.

A constitutional convention can consider proposals to adopt a parliamentary form of government. A parliamentary form of government would obviate the need to stage a People Power rising every time a critical mass of people loses confidence in the incumbent administration. A change in administration can then be carried out through constitutional and not extra-constitutional means.

The political summit also called for the computerization of elections in 2004 to put an end to election cheating. If this proposal is also endorsed by the two political parties that boycotted the summit, the Commission on Elections will be under a lot of pressure to push through with its much-delayed computerization project. In this age of computers, the country cannot afford to continue with its present manual canvassing and reporting of election results. Computerization should clean up the election process and make it truly reflective of the people's will.

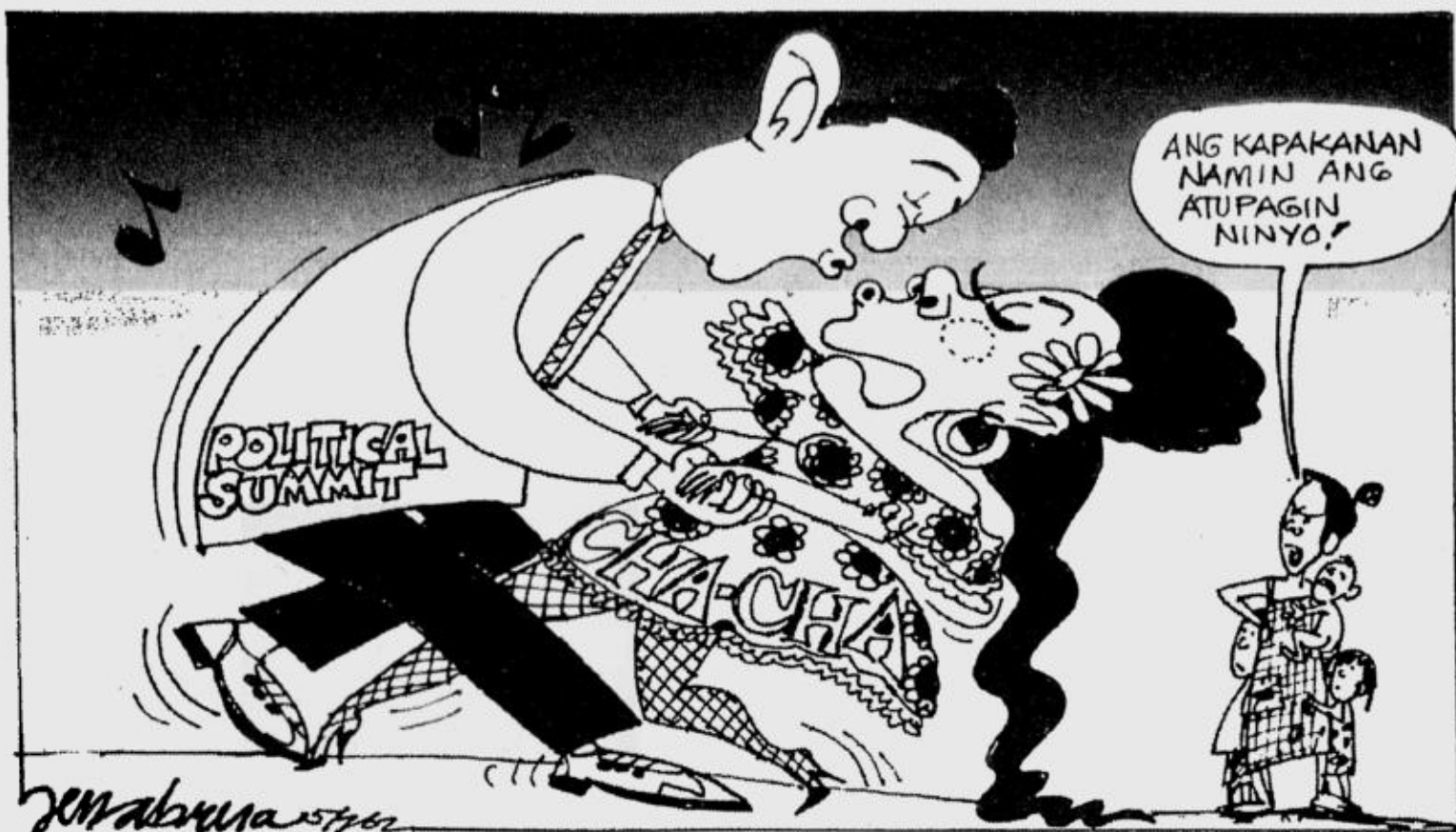
The political summit endorsed absentee balloting to enable 7 million overseas Filipinos to vote in national elections. This measure is also long overdue. Lack of provisions for absentee voting effectively disfranchises about one-tenth of the population who are called the "modern-day heroes" of the nation. Congress, if it decides to pass the absentee voting measure, however has to institute safeguards to make sure that it is not used as a means to commit electoral fraud.

A third proposal—state financing for political parties—is controversial and has to be further debated in Congress. There are those who think that this will make political parties independent of various influences, including drug and gambling syndicates and big business interests. But there are those who think that the country is not yet ready for state financing for parties because it has no real party system to speak of in the first place.

We wonder why the original proposal for the abolition of the Judicial and Bar Council was not approved. The summit's declaration merely calls for the "review of the relevance" of the council. Experience has shown that the Judicial and Bar Council has served as a means for making "political appointments" to judicial positions, from the lowest court to the Supreme Court. We could return to the old system of appointing judges. Or a new system has to be set up to ensure that only the most qualified candidates are appointed.

The political summit was a success, if only for the fact that it made the political parties more conscious of their role in taking the lead in reforming the constitutional, political and electoral structures of the country. If our political leaders do not want to be accused of political hypocrisy, then they have to translate the consensus of the summit into concrete decisions, actions and programs. Being at the same time the leaders of Congress, they have the power to pass the laws that will institute electoral, constitutional and political reforms.

The decisions taken at the political summit may yet provide the answer to the sense of political drift and the perceived disenchantment of the people with the present political system.



DENR should stop land-grabbers

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez told this corner that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has won a case in the Supreme Court against a notorious land-grabber in the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Antipolo, Rizal. This land-grabber was able to have hectares and hectares of public land titled in his name through the courts with easily manipulated judges.

The DENR filed cases to annul the titles. But every time the land-grabber lost a case, he appealed to a higher court until it reached the Supreme Court. Finally, he could not go any higher. The highest tribunal has ruled that the titles were fraudulently secured and that the land, being a watershed, is permanently in the public domain and cannot be titled to private persons. Any title to parcels of it, therefore, are null and void.

But that is not the last land-grabber to bite the dust. There are others out there still trying to steal public land for themselves. In fact, the place—encompassing not only Antipolo but also neighboring San Mateo, Tanay and Baras—are crawling with squatters, speculators, opportunists and land-grabbers. It is like the American Wild West where there is no law. There are no Wyatt Earps or Bat Mastersons to tame the land. Considering that this is within spitting distance of Malacañang, not in a far-away place like Mindanao, isn't it a crying shame that the national government, with all the power at its disposal, cannot impose law and order there.

Environmental NGOs are very noisy in Metro Manila, basking in media attention, but the environment is being decimated in this valley which is practically a suburb of Metro Manila. Trees are being cut and sawn into lumber or turned into charcoal by squatters. The Boso-boso River running through it is being polluted. Where are the environmental NGOs?

Worse, government officials and employees are accomplices in the despoliation. Soldiers and policemen actually fund the charcoal-makers. Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (Penros and Enros) help the land-grabbers. And judges

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(que horror!) make it easy for land-grabbers to get titles to public lands.

But the unkindest cut of all is that the President of the Philippines and the Supreme Court themselves are among the rapists of the environment. President Fidel V. Ramos allowed a garbage dump in a portion of the watershed, a clear violation of the law, the Nipas Act (National Integrated Protected Areas System) which protects watersheds. Kilosbayan of former Senate President Jovito Salonga filed a complaint but the Supreme Court sat on the case for years until the San Mateo landfill was forced to close. The dump was initiated by President Corason Aquino.

Will the present President be any different?

During the time of the much-maligned President Ferdinand Marcos, he hired the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation for P1 million to reforest with Benguet pines a bald part of the watershed within the boundaries of Baras. The Seedling Bank did a magnificent job. That mountainside is now a forest of adult pine trees. It not only looks like Baguio, it probably has more pine trees than Baguio. It is a shame that not more people see it although it is very near Manila (only about an hour's drive) because it is almost inaccessible except to land-grabbers, squatters, subsistence farmers—and charcoal-makers.

Yes, charcoal-makers. They are cutting the pine trees and turning them into charcoal, which policemen and soldiers are buying for resale to the thousands of ihaw-ihaw, lechon manok and barbecue stands in the city.

What are the Penros and Enros doing?

They are busy giving free patents titles to land-grabbers.

For example, Penro Samson de Leon of Rizal is the subject of a complaint by a group of settlers in Baras for giving free patent titles to 300 hectares of the land reforested by the Seedling Bank to 14 individuals most of whom are surnamed Ong. The complaint was filed with the office of then Secretary Antonio Cerilles. But Cerilles did nothing. Instead, De Leon was promoted. (He is reportedly malakas with the legal department of the DENR.) What kind of foolishness is this? What will Alvarez do about it?

In the first place, what kind of law is it that gives to a relatively minor DENR employee, with a salary of a few thousand pesos a month, the authority to give titles to valuable public land on his own initiative? The opportunities for bribery are abundant. That law or regulation should be repealed.

The DENR should act quickly now to recover stolen public land before crooked judges and justices make it hard to do.

Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon should take the time to visit this reforested area not only for tourism purposes but also to show the people what can be done to denuded areas. The place would be a good picnic area for people fleeing the heat of the city. They won't need a three-day weekend to go to Baguio. They need only an hour to drive to Baras on the Marcos Highway to feel like they are in Baguio.

If Gordon can persuade the Department of Public Works and Highways to build an all-weather road to it and walking trails into it, he would be able to provide Metro Manilans with a tourist destination that is very near. It would be a great place for trekking and hiking. That ought to prevent the area from being denuded again by charcoal-makers, squatters, kaingeros and land-grabbers. A lot of hanky-panky goes on in areas not visible to the eyes of the public. The Philippine Tourism Authority under Nixon Cua, I am sure, can save it and do wonders to it.

Scenes we'd like to see

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"I know that unity is a tricky word, as tricky as the word, 'opposition.' Unity by itself is not a natural virtue, it becomes so only when the purposes by which we unite are lofty. To unite to mug the country, as when the generals stood behind Ferdinand Marcos to put the country under martial law 30 years ago, is not desirable, it is abhorrent. It is not unity, it is conspiracy. There is a line between the two, and we would do well to be aware of it. The one is driven by principle, the other by expedience. The one is driven by a common good, the other by self-interest.

"I have shown my good faith, my desire to forge a unity and not mount a conspiracy, by forsaking my plans for 2004. By being content to serve you in the time you have thrust upon me and entrusted to me. I am grateful for the privilege and honor. In turn, I dare, I challenge, I beg the opposition to show its good faith by rising beyond itself and thinking of the country first.

"Above all, I ask the opposition to join the nation in stopping corruption once and for all. Before we can build, we must clear, and nothing needs clearing more than the forest of lies and deception left behind by the previous administration. Prosecuting Erap too is not a matter of choice, it is a matter of survival. Punishing Erap, where he is found guilty by the courts—and at the risk of prejudging the case, I must say that the evidence against him, as shown by the impeachment trial, is overwhelming—is not a matter of choice, it is a matter of survival.

"It is linked to the task of attacking poverty in the same way that punishing the Marcoses is linked to the task of attacking iniquity. It is the

only way we can give the poor a chance in life, by dispelling the illusion that their hope lies with a crook, however charismatic he is. It is the only way we can give the nation a new lease in life, by showing there is something higher than liege and that is law, there is someone higher than the president and that is the people.

"There is nothing more comical than the opposition discovering virtue after a lifetime of vice. Then the opposition discovering the ineptitude, fearfulness and corruption of this government after unleashing the parasitism, paranoia and kleptomania of the previous one. Then the opposition discovering the threat to democracy this government poses after helping to build a gangster state. I offer them the hand of reconciliation, one based not on forgetting the past but on remembering it, not based on abject surrender but on mutual self-abnegation. If they do not accept it on these terms, then they will have shown that their only claim to being an opposition is that they are opposed to not being in power.

"But if by some miracle they should join us, if by my example of putting country above self they should be inspired to help us, then together we should be able to remove the things that have kept this country weak and divided. I am willing to reexamine our policies on globalization, particularly those that mean removing all subsidies to the poor, including food and fuel. I am willing to reexamine our policies on admitting, or keeping, foreign troops into this country, seeing that they have been a source of much divisiveness among Filipinos, the very thing this summit means to cure. I am willing to reexamine our policies of investing in war rather than peace.

"I am determined in the time that has been given me to lead this country to acquit myself in a heroic way, realizing that it is not how much time one has but what one does with one's time that matters in the end. I will have history say that the best president this country had was the one who was never elected.

"God help me if I fail."

GMA put trust over military tradition in Cimatu selection

RIGHT after the PMA alumni homecoming last February, this column said that there would predictably be some grumbling over the appointment of Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, as AFP chief of staff, considering that he would be serving only six weeks from the time Gen. Diomedio Villanueva retires on May 20 up to his own retirement in July—unless his tenure is extended. I also stressed that the controversy over Cimatu would be considerably lessened if the Burnhams and nurse Deborah Yap could be rescued before then.

Up to now, the hostages have not been rescued, but the President has already announced her decision to appoint Cimatu as the next chief of staff. In so doing she ignored the AFP practice of not extending the tenure of the top military official.

This practice was violated in a most whimsical fashion by Ferdinand Marcos, causing grave demoralization in the ranks. In more recent times, then President Fidel Ramos extended the term of Gen. Arturo Enrile for an unusual reason: to help ensure a smooth Apec summit. Obviously, in these difficult times, GMA has opted for a military chief with whom she has good chemistry and whom she trusts. Time will tell if it's a wise decision.

The President's recent call, aired at the just-concluded summit of political parties, for "constant debate on all issues affecting the public interest" appears to have been taken to heart by the members of Congress on the Charter-change issue. The political summit stipulated that "to fully modernize Philippine politics and bring it closer to the democratic ideal, a process of building broad consensus on constitutional reform must be started." The delegates from various political parties asserted that "it is now necessary to introduce major changes to the present charter in a manner that is open, transparent and broadly participatory." Because of the nature of the proposed revisions and the conflicts of interest that are sure to arise in the Congress, the delegates expressed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

"a strong sentiment" in favor of a constitutional convention whose members will be elected in 2004.

As I see it, the members of the House of Representatives appear to be in near-unanimity over the need to amend or revise the Constitution, but the question is how to go about it. On this issue the lawmakers seem to be split.

At the summit, I asked Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya where he stood on the issue and he said he shared the thinking of Speaker Joe de Venecia that a constitutional convention be held. Abaya stressed that this process will be more credible to the people, since it won't be the incumbent politicians who will revise the Charter. Sharing this sentiment is Cebu's Raul del Mar. Saving on expenses, this side argues, is the lesser consideration; credibility is paramount.

On the other hand, those pushing for a constituent assembly—and they include Biliran Rep. Gerry Espina, Surigao del Sur's Prospero Pichay and Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez—argue that the 33 amendments to the US Constitution in over 200 years were made through this method. In addition, they point out that a convention does not necessarily become "more credible" and that there is no guarantee that the delegates will be of a "better caliber" since it is likely that the politicians will field their wives or children, or their opponents will run and win.

And so the great debate continues.

PDP-Laban chief Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. cites as reason for his party's boycott of the po-

litical summit the expenses involved. He said his party was asked to fork over P300,000. Since only 10 party members were tending, that would have meant P30,000 per member.

Pimentel's statement drew all kinds of reactions. One pundit said that until the senator admitted that his party had 10 members he didn't know for sure how big the PDP-Laban is. Now everyone knows it's a Hi-Ace van party.

I learned that in dividing the summit expenses, the political parties were assessed contributions based on their size. The three biggest—Lakas, Nationalist People's Coalition and LD—were billed about P400,000 each. (LDP pulled out on the eve of the summit, but it had already made a down payment). The smallest party-list groups were billed P20,000 each (although some of them had more participants than the political parties). After noting this, a wag cracked that he was finally convinced De Venecia was no longer running for higher office because that in earlier times, JDV would have picked up the tab for the party-list groups.

I'm glad that the INQUIRER published in toto the reply of Slimmers World International (SWI) to my column item about the controversy involving Liza Cacanando, who claims to have lost some valuables when she had a workout some weeks back. The readers doubtless noted the tone of arrogance of SWI's Helen Camacho, who seems to have learned it from her boss, SWI president Ronald Joseph Moy, who barred Cacanando from all SWI salons and threw out her 18-year membership, instead of attending courteously to her complaint. The way SWI handled her case is an incredible PR disaster. Camacho claims I did not seek SWI's side, but I did: I read Moy's arrogant letter to Cacanando, the SWI lawyer's equally arrogant letter and the police report. Their arrogance was what prompted me to take up the cudgels for her, not the fact that she is a former military wife like me.

The boss and the leader

I AM 27, and out of work. In my most recent job I lasted three days and a half, and I was working on installment. More precisely, I went to work on 3.5 separate days, then quit.

I think I got away with my irregular attendance only because I was in sales, and because among the new sales executives, it was I who had the two most promising prospects. Charm, I believe, did the rest, with regard to my boss.

YOUNGBLOOD

Rosemarie Bueno

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I quit when I realized that my boss had nothing better in his mind for me than to make a quick buck from my efforts. For one thing, the way he said that sales executives must sell at least two vehicles a month, you would think I had the supernatural ability to make anyone cough up over P1 million just to buy our cars.

Although I am a writer by profession, I took the job, wanting to try out sales, lured by the promise of a five-digit income. The ad said I could earn anywhere between P30,000 and P50,000 a month. After having held jobs that paid just a few hundreds over the four-digit mark, I figured I should go for it.

What the ad did not say was that the P30,000 or more would be the commission, after one met the monthly quota. In the meantime, management expected me to stretch a measly P6,000 allowance, until it snapped or I snapped, whichever came first. I thought that with so little to live on, Mommy and I would soon be stretched out cold, before I could sell even just one car.

Because selling cars—German cars—is no laughing matter, I expected management to train us well before they let us go out hunting for clients. I thought we would have at least a month of training—memorizing specs, knowing the smell of the interior, describing the vroom of the engine—but I was wrong. On my first day, I didn't see the flow charts, the PowerPoint presentation, the big screen demo I was expecting. Instead I met another fresh recruit waiting to give me a tour of the company's facilities.

The tour turned out to be a babble of talk about three models of our brand, about V6 engines, twin-turbo intercoolers, and what have you. Apparently, Mr. Senior Sales Executive thought it wise for my fellow neophyte to practice his sales pitch on me. Or maybe, Mr. SSE was just too lazy to teach me the same things all over again. Naturally, I was absent when he himself toured the two other new recruits the day before.

Being neither a driver nor a car enthusiast, it took three re-runs before I figured out what the buttons on the automatic key were for. Before this, I tried to ask for help from the seasoned sales executives, but they all said the same thing: "Don't worry, you'll eventually understand the specs, in time."

Since I was new on the job, my boss said he would go with me to meet my big-shot prospects. I didn't want that. I wanted to do the presentation myself. Besides I wanted to spare them the experience of hearing my boss' menacing, overreager sales approach.

Similar unhappy incidents happened until the day I quit. That was on the day my boss failed to understand why I needed a primer on basic auto mechanics. I went to see him that afternoon, asking if he could lend me materials that would help me understand how the damn machines worked. I had seen some illustrations in the Internet defining the functions of each auto part and I found them useful. I was hoping I could borrow the same sort of materials from my boss. Unknown to him, I really wanted to make a difference in my job, and rise above my entry image as another moneymaker for the company.

But when he smiled to comply with my request, it hit me. There, reflected in his eyes, was me the potential moneymaker, and not the employee who could make a difference. As far as I could tell from the reflection, I was doomed to keeping my entry-level image until I sold 100 cars that same month.

The last straw was when he completely missed my point. Instead of giving me the basics I had asked for, he instructed his assistant to have the car specs printed out from our company's Website.

"Huh?" I muttered to myself. "I already have those." The next day, I resigned.

I have yet to regret my decision to this day, despite my unemployed state and the financial loss. I feel a great sense of peace, knowing that with in such an unsupportive professional environment, I would have resigned at some other time anyway.

I'm still looking for a job where I will be working with someone I will be proud to call my boss, someone who fits the description John Maxwell gave of a true leader:

"The boss drives his workers; the leader coaches them. The boss knows how it is done; the leader shows how. The boss says go, the leader says let's go!"

I know I will find him very soon. I just know.

Rosemarie Bueno, 27, is a freelance editorial consultant.

Caught in the 'vaginal economy'

SHE calls it the "vaginal economy," and much to her chagrin, though not entirely surprise, Tesda Director-General Lucy Lazo finds herself very much in the center of a maelstrom swirling about the overseas entertainment industry.

On the one hand, there are the "Tres Marias" with oversight power over the industry: Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, POEA Administrator Linda Baldoz and Lazo. On the other are all those benefiting and profiting from the deployment of entertainers abroad, mostly to Japan: talent promoters, recruiters, testing venue owners and testing officers, and club owners and managers.

What about the entertainers themselves, the thousands of singers and dancers, many of whom, once in Japan, are conscripted into the "oldest profession"? Through Department Order 10, which provides tougher rules for deployment, and lodges primary responsibility for training and accreditation of artists with Tesda, the "Tres Marias" say they wish to provide greater protection to the artists, majority of them women, by raising standards and ensuring accountability by limiting deployment only to qualified and licensed recruitment agencies.

Promoters, recruiters and other vested interests likewise say they are fighting DO 10 on behalf of the women, claiming the new rules will severely restrict the number of entertainers sent abroad, and of course eat into their profits.

Last March 20, a group of recruiters and testing venue owners and officers managed to secure a permanent injunction against the promulgation of DO 10 from Judge Lucas Bersamin of the Quezon City regional trial court. As a result, Tesda has suspended all activities related to screening, testing and accrediting of overseas performing artists until the case is settled in the Supreme Court, where the government has filed an appeal. Because of this, Tesda now faces a backlog of 47,000 applications for the Artist's Record Book, a requirement of the Japanese Embassy before an artist is given a visa to enter Japan.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Caught in a trap of their own making, the recruiters and testing officers and venue owners are now clamoring for a return to the pre-DO 10 regime, something that Lazo says is no longer practical or possible unless she wants to be cited for contempt of court.

The battle between the forces of regulation and the "vagina economy" took the form of mostly mini-skirmishes until the publication of an "open letter" to the President in national dailies. Citing the "plight" of the overseas artists who couldn't leave because of the inaction at the Tesda, the group trained their guns on Lazo, accusing her of "indifference" and questioning her credentials. With this declaration of war, Lazo says she now feels free to speak her mind on the issue.

THE PHILIPPINES sends abroad an average of 35,000 entertainers each year, about 95 percent to Japan. Together with other types of workers in Japan, this sector sends home some \$200 million in yearly remittances.

The history of government regulation of the overseas artists sector shows how the state and regulatory agencies have tried to find a balance between protecting women and stemming the flow of deployment of clearly unqualified "artists" and providing legitimization and assistance to those artists destined for legitimate entertainment venues.

"The thinking then was that government couldn't and shouldn't prevent the women from traveling abroad to work as entertainers," says Lazo. "After all, they have the right to travel and to state protection when they get into trouble abroad." What government sought to do

instead was to put in place rules and procedures to determine that only legitimate talents could be accredited to work abroad, as well as ensure the welfare and protection of performing artists. In 1991, for instance, Circular No. 01 provided that "no performing artist shall be required to work as receptionist/hostess, to engage in 'dohan' (dating with clients) or similar practices, to perform nude, indecent or other illegal acts."

All acts, by the way, widely acknowledged as being honored mainly in the breach in Japan and everywhere else Filipino women have been trafficked into sex work.

IN 1994, the ARB system was put in place through DO No. 3, making "training, testing and certification a mandatory requirement for performing artists going abroad." Responsibility for these was lodged with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or Tesda, whose mandate is actually to promote and uplift the standards of non-formal and non-degree skills training. From the start, says a Tesda document, the authority "had been the reluctant partner due to unresolved policy questions." But the system had to be made operational. These days, an average of 73 percent of applicants pass the tests and are issued Certificates of Competency.

"The very reason for which the OPA skills testing and ARB system was installed is for government to have a control valve to slow down the deployment of young women as entertainers overseas," says the Tesda study. "If this were followed, a situation where there is a lower number of test passers would have been a better figure for government and the moralists in society."

What happened instead was that this system of training, testing, accreditation and regulation became a new source of graft and corruption and yet another form of exploitation of women. After all, if "everyone" knows most of the women are going to end up as hostesses anyway, making small talk and lighting the cigarettes of customers, then going out on "dates" with them, then there's no need to take the system seriously. Might as well make money off the women, too.

The friar lands

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

Mesa de Misericordia, Sta. Catalina College and the Manila Cabildo.

Another estate was in Mandaluyong, bought at a public auction with another parcel from Doña Jeronima Venegas in 1675. Aside from Talamban, other haciendas were in Talisay and Minglanilla. A friar by the name of Fr. Antonio Ocampo bought land in Pasay and in Guiguinto in 1654. Maysapang in Pasig was also given them by Legaspi to raise livestock and there they built a stone house. During the British occupation this was looted of its carabaos, horses and cattle.

On condition that the fathers would develop them, the government in 1880 granted them vast tracts of land in Isabela to spur agricultural progress.

The Dominican estates which got them into a lot of trouble too were acquired mainly in the 17th century. Orion, Bataan, was bought in 1637. Adjacent haciendas in Sta. Rosa and Biñan were obtained in the name of Santo Tomas University in 1641, 1643 and 1677. D. Diego O'Kenedy in 1761 sold them his hacienda in Sta. Cruz de Malabon (Tanza), located partly in the town and partly in Naic. Seventy years later in 1831 D. Jose Orbeza sold them his Hacienda San Isidro Labrador also in Naic for P25,000.

Again in the 17th century different parcels of land located in the towns of Bocaue, Sta. Maria, Norzagaray, Bigaa, Angat and Bustos in Bulacan were bought. Unfortunately most of these were in mountainous areas and produced nothing useful except to annoy a lot of people with the thought

of all that land in the hands of one religious corporation.

The Dominicans had better luck with Lolomboy, consisting of several properties in Bocaue, Sta. Maria, San Jose and Marilao in Bulacan also acquired in the 17th century. These at least produced 6,000 sacks of rice annually, and from the income, missionaries were brought to the Philippines and those in China and Tonkin were supported. Lolomboy had an hacienda house with a tiled roof and a tambobong (granary) for storing rice.

The San Juan Bautista Estate in Calamba, Laguna, formerly belonged to the Jesuits. It was sequestered by the government in 1768 and sold at auction to the Dominicans in 1832 for P51,263. Most of it was planted to rice and sugarcane and was surrounded by thick forests. (Hopefully this is not a normal government pattern. Otherwise most of us will be dead before the PCGG settles the properties it sequestered in 1986.)

The Recollect property in Imus, Cavite, started with a parcel of land deeded them by Doña Hipolita de Zarte in 1666. More property in Imus was bought at auction in 1685 by Master of Camp Tomas Andaya and transferred to them the following year. Five years later, the Sacristan Mayor of Cavite City, D. Jose de Solis, sold them his hacienda at Bagombohy which was contiguous to and formed part of the Imus hacienda.

The Recollects also owned property in Muntinlupa called the Tunasan Estate that was bought from the same Master of Camp, Gen. Tomas Andaya, for P12,000 in 1695. He had acquired it from the dean of the Metropolitan Church of Manila, Miguel Ortiz de Cobarrubias.

On the eve of the revolution, Chartered Bank adjudicated the Talaja estate in Morong from Jules Dayllard, a Frenchman, and sold it to one of his creditors, the Recollects.

(Data from Fr. Pablo Fernandez, O.P., "History of the Church in the Philippines")

THE SUBJECT of Church lands was one of those topics elided over in the study of Philippine history if you went to a Catholic convent school like I did. One imagines that in sectarian schools the opposite is true. And yet no one has brought up the obvious explanation that if a corporation existed for 300 years, surely its assets would increase in quantity as well as in value. Imagine if your great grandparents had bought a hectare of raw land in what is now Forbes Park and kept it in the family for 100 years.

I remember that even in the 1960s, long after the friars had gone, the subject appeared to touch a raw nerve in some people who certainly were not alive before the revolution. What I found interesting though was the thought that urban areas now overrun with concrete and crisscrossed by highways and overpasses were once mere haciendas and pasture lands that incited deep feelings and got the friars into a lot of trouble.

Some of the lands owned by the religious orders dated back to the time of Legaspi such as the Augustinian property called Talamban in Cebu. Others were deeded to them, while still others they bought. Five of the 10 parcels comprising the hacienda in San Francisco de Malabon (now Gen. Trias) were bought from Gaspar Godoy in 1877. As early as 1725 the hacienda in Malinta in Polo, Bulacan, was purchased from several owners.

There were farms as well in Dampol, Matame and Marcos bought in a public bidding in 1834 for P26,000. An agent by the name of Antonio Quijano purchased several parcels from various Filipinos in Muntinlupa for the Augustinians in 1665. The largest parcel gave the name to the town.

The Tala Estate was the property of Gen. Miguel Martinez who gave it to the Augustinian Order when he died in 1715. He owned 119 quiniones and 8 balitas, terms whose meanings I will leave to you the pleasure of looking for. Later in 1725 and 1726, the good friars acquired more of the general's property from his creditors, the

THEY SAID

Weakening the executive branch

"This decision is emasculating the executive. We will have an executive department dependent on the judiciary later on."

—Former Bureau of Internal Revenue chief Litwayway Vinzon's Chato on the Supreme Court's ruling of the Jancom deal

Obsessed with quick fixes

"As long as our officials remain obsessed with back-end solutions and quick fixes, we will never break free of the waste crisis."

—Greenpeace International's Von Hernandez

Ignorance and the law

"If a judge commits an error in his decision, he will be slapped by the Supreme Court with 'ignorance of the law' with corresponding fines or sanctions, but if the SC commits an error, it is the law of the land."

—Tabaco Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Arnulfo Cabredo

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How safe are WPP witnesses?

THIS refers to the letter of Leo Dacera III, director of the Witness Protection Program (WPP) regarding allegations of rape committed against a witness in the custody of the program.

We take exception to the claim of Dacera that the rape complaint was an isolated case. We have been receiving persistent information of alleged irregularities and anomalous

practices at the WPP under Dacera's leadership. We are sending you a copy of an affidavit signed by PO1 Jonathan Morales, a former government witness in the program, which clearly chronicles abuses committed at the WPP.

What deeply troubles us is that the alleged rape of "Evangeline" and other documented abuses happened right under the very nose of

the WPP director who contemptuously chose to ignore the documented complaints and failed to act on them judiciously.

We hope that with the commendable courage being displayed by "Evangeline," safety and order at the WPP will soon be restored so that our witnesses will again feel secure inside their safe houses.

SGS should get only what is its due

I FEEL obliged to correct some erroneous impressions about my actions on the billings of the Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), to protect my name and the honor of some government "politicos" who were unnecessarily dragged and alluded to in the column of Conrado Banal III last April 16, 2002. It was very unkind, if not irresponsible, of Banal to distort facts and come up with fallacious conclusions that tend to malign other people's integrity.

There is no truth to Banal's allegation that some people do not want the government to pay its debts to the SGS. The government is responsible enough to honor its commitments but in this case the billings should be further verified and the liabilities/deductibles of the SGS should be fully ascertained and deducted from the billings. The SGS will be paid—that is

for sure—for the correct amount finally determined.

It is not true that late billings by one day is automatically deemed to have been billed before. The late billings were discovered to have been submitted twice for payment and this is the criterion in considering the same as double billings.

A formula need not be provided for in the contract. Neither do I have my own formula as falsely stated by Banal. Logic dictates that claims should only be filed once under the time honored principle that no person shall unjustly enrich himself at the expense of another.

The liability of the SGS for errors committed resulting in substantial damage to the government is governed by a specific provision in the contract. It is not my own formula but an agreement

between the SGS and the government, which is the law governing their relations. The instances cited by Banal wherein penalties were imposed on the SGS for the fault of the Bureau of Customs and other errors not contemplated in the contract are figments of his imagination. A cursory examination of the reports will bear this out.

I did not "go to town" to promote my stand. It was enough that I noted my reservations/objections on the report of the Joint BOC-SGS Review Team and submitted later my explanations in support thereof to the finance secretary, as directed by the customs commissioner. Let it be emphasized that I submitted my reservations/objections in accordance with my sworn duty, based on the honest belief that the liabilities of the SGS should be fully deducted

from its billings and that the government should pay only what is legally due. I am surprised why I am being taken to task for a report which higher officials could completely disregard in the exercise of their discretion.

There is apparently merit in my reservations. The House committee on good government found inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the SGS billings which the committee termed as "anomaly." For this reason, the committee resolved to refer the SGS billings to the Commission on Audit for pre-audit and verification with the reservation to take administrative and/or criminal action against the persons involved.

—EMMA M. ROSQUETA,
deputy commissioner,
Revenue Collection and
Monitoring Group,
Bureau of Customs

English needed for survival

TO MAKE Marikina City residents competitive in world job markets, the Marikina City mayor is said to have launched a program called "Speak English." Although this is a modest effort because learning how to speak correct English takes a long time, this is a laudable program other local government units should emulate.

Tagalog (Filipino) is good, but it will not make us globally competitive. We need English to survive.

—T.B. ABAYAN,
13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview,
Quezon City

Ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC

MA. Ceres P. Doyo in her column on the International Criminal Court (PDI, 4/25/02) stressed the need and urgency for the government to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

As one who participated in the drafting of the Statute at the International Law Commission level and at the Preparatory Commission Meetings convened by the United Nations, I join her appeal for immediate ratification.

But the treaty-ratifying body, the Senate, should be fully informed and enlightened on certain provisions in the Statute which are quite

sensitive and crucial. I refer to the articles dealing with jurisdiction, the crimes covered, the preconditions to the exercise of jurisdiction and the issues of admissibility of the case before the court.

Crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC are genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. It is noted that under Article 12 (1) of the Statute, "A State, which becomes a party to the Statute, thereby accepts the jurisdiction of the Court." Ratification therefore is equivalent to an outright acceptance of the ICC's jurisdiction. Unlike

other laws or conventions creating a tribunal or court, the Rome Statute did not only cite the crimes over which the court shall have jurisdiction but listed and defined the specific acts or offenses covered by each crime. In other words, the substantive penal laws are found or embodied in the statute itself.

Although in earlier years the UN tasked the International Law Commission (ILC) to prepare a draft Code of Offenses which the ILC did, the same never reached approval stage because of the Cold War. Thus, the incorporation in the Rome Statute of the crimes un-

der the court's jurisdiction which otherwise should have been treated in separate Statute or Code. This was done also to prevent further delay in the approval of the Rome Statute.

A perusal of the specific acts in the Statute covering these crimes, with the exception of the crime of aggression which still has to be defined by the UN Security Council, shows that some of these acts or crimes are already recognized by our penal laws such as killing of the members of the group and causing serious physical harm to that group as in the case of genocide; murder, extermination,

rape and torture as in the case of crimes against humanity; willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, taking of hostages as in the case of war crimes.

Because of the complementary provision in the exercise of jurisdiction, the national court may claim and exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the ICC, more so if the conduct in question occurred in Philippine territory or in Philippine registered vessel or aircraft or the accused is a national.

It is only when the conduct in question is not covered by Philippine laws that the ICC may exercise jurisdiction in view of the well-known principle that a person can only be held criminally responsible when his conduct constitutes a crime at the time it takes place.

Under the statute, the ICC's exercise of jurisdiction is anchored on the rule of admissibility in that it shall decide that a case is inadmissible if it is already being investigated or prosecuted by a state which has jurisdiction and that the accused has already been tried for the offense. However, and this I recall was the main objection ventilated during the Precom meetings, exceptions were made allowing the ICC to exercise jurisdiction when a state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the investigation or prosecution or has decided not to prosecute.

It was in July 1998 in Rome that the Statute creating the Court was approved by participating states with few abstentions and dissents. Under Article 126, the Statute shall enter into force upon the deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification with the UN secretary general.

However, for a state ratifying thereafter, the statute shall enter into force as far as that state is concerned after the 60th day following the deposit of ratification by that state.

—RAUL I. GOCO,
former solicitor
general and member,
UN Int'l Law
Commission, 5,
10th St., New
Manila, Quezon City

'Mabait'

HERE'S a familiar scene from our television newscasts: a mother tearfully protesting criminal charges filed against a son saying, "Mabait naman siya."

Let's postpone the English translation for now and look at what transpires next. The camera shows the errant son and you begin to agree he is mabait. His face is almost angelic as he responds to the questions from policemen and reporters, his voice ever so timid, complete with all the courteous po's and ho's.

I used to think this was all play-acting, an attempt to get public sympathy, but I am now convinced we're dealing with a different phenomenon revolving around mabait. The errant son may in fact be mabait, both as a son as well as a member of his barkada, and that is what has gotten him into trouble.

If we're asked what "mabait" means, we'll respond "good" and "kind" but those are terribly weak translations. Mabait is more accurately defined as conforming to the norm and to social expectations. The opposite of mabait is not "bad" or "unkind" but being deviant, not conforming to what persons in authority and peers define as "good."

What complicates matters is that the "norm" differs depending on the context, one that is defined by powerful feudal relations.

We teach our children to be mabait in the sense of being obedient and courteous. In the classroom, the mabait child is one who never questions the teacher, speaking only when given permission. If the child asks why she should keep silent, the only explanation we can give is: "Because ma'am is your teacher."

"Bait" becomes problematic because it reduces ethical behavior to conformity. In training a child to be mabait, we emphasize pakikisama or getting along with people, especially with those superior to you. So what do you expect when that child grows into adolescence and has a barkada? If the barkada invokes pakikisama for drugs, the mabait child will give in easily because non-conformity makes you unpopular, making you not mabait.

"Bait" comes to us from our feudal past and is crucial in defining the roles to be played in a feudal relationship. The dominated are mabait in the sense of being obedient, pandering to every whim of the dominant. But the oppressor in such a feudal relationship is also expected to be "mabait" in his or her own way, rewarding, even if in a skewed way, the loyalty of the mabait "client."

An extreme example would be cases of sexual abuse of children. The "mabait" child—unquestioning and docile—may in fact be more vulnerable to sexual abuse by adults. The "mabait" child is easy prey for abuse and is "safe" because the abuser—a father, a teacher, or a priest—can keep the child silent simply by reminding him to stay "mabait."

Note that this martyr role applies not just to abused children. Battered wives will stay on as well, convinced that this is the role of the "mabait" wife.

"Bait" forms the core of the patron-client relationship, so crucial in Philippine politics. It doesn't matter if a politician is venal and corrupt as long as he or she treats you well on a personal level, which means occasionally tossing a few crumbs to the faithful. Imelda Marcos and former President Joseph Estrada were very successful at building up this mabait image with their doles. (Ate or, lately, Inang Gloria tries terribly hard but fares poorly.)

I worry, too, about "bait" in schools, where the "mabait" teacher is defined as someone who gives high grades. Never mind if the teacher can't teach; never mind if he or she hardly shows up in class. The student learns to play the game: "You give me a good grade and I keep quiet about your incompetence." The social damage comes not just with the undeserved grades but in what the student learns (or doesn't learn) about responsibility.

Archaic as this "mabait" value may be, it thrives well even in the most modern of business corporations. In these large institutions, "mabait" becomes more diffused, dealing not just with relationships between a boss and an employee but with the maintenance of smooth interpersonal interrelationships. The "mabait" employee is someone who minds his or her own business. This can foster mediocrity, creativity and innovation sacrificed for safe conformity. It's interesting that Jose Villa Panganiban's Tagalog-English dictionary, published in 1973, gives "prudence" as one of "bait's" definitions. I suspect that this older concept of bait as prudence has evolved into a kind of opportunism, of accepting the status quo and gaining favor with the powers that are.

I am not saying that we should throw out tactfulness and diplomacy, kindness and graciousness. But I do feel strongly that we need to question this concept of "mabait." "Mabait" is being good for an ulterior motive, usually currying favor with those in authority, or gaining popularity among peers. We need to learn to be good, well, for goodness' sake. Never mind mabait; what's more important is becoming good persons, mabuting tao.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Interview on excommunication

I AM writing to air my side relative to a letter from Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines secretary general Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel last May 2, 2002.

I am standing by my story regarding his admonition to priests that excommunication awaits those who "at-

tempt marriage."

I have the whole interview on tape and have played it out loud to my immediate superiors. The good monsignor repeated the word "excommunication" at least thrice during the interview.

His complete quote goes: "If the priest attempts marriage, it's not

illegal. But for us, it is excommunication... That's the law, automatic pa nga yun. Hindi na hihintayin ng circular from the bishop. Latne sententiae ang tawag doon."

—ARMAND
NOCUM, Church/
CBCP reporter,
Philippine Daily
Inquirer

A column that shouldn't have been written

THE COLUMN of Isagani Cruz titled "Laurel v. Desierto," (PDI, 4/28/02) was in bad taste because the case involving former Vice President Salvador Laurel is sub judice in the Supreme Court.

Cruz is a former Supreme Court justice and receiving pension from the government whose interest is opposed to that of Laurel. He presented only the side of Laurel and was saying the three justices were wrong, thereby trying to influence the other justices of the Supreme Court who are his former associates or

friends or subordinates.

Lastly, everybody knows how close he is to the Laurel family. He should not have written that column.

—SILVERIO F.
AQUINO,
29 Road 14,
Project 8,
Quezon City

Peaceful May Day

THE MACAPAGAL administration must be commended and praised for the peaceful observance of Labor Day. It seems to me that all efforts to prepare for the events of the day were taken and executed to the

best ability of all concerned. Thus, the day passed peacefully yet democratically.

The press remained completely free to observe and report on events (or non-events), and the police and military kept law

and order. My warmest congratulations and thanks to the Macapagal administration.

—V. BRUCE J.
TOLENTINO, 94C
Esteban Abada St.,
Loyola heights,
Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

'Exile' deal seen ending Church of Nativity standoff



CATHOLIC leader of the Church of the Nativity Ibrahim Faltas embraces an Israeli soldier as he leaves May 5 to hold a Mass at the nearby Bethlehem religious university. The 33-day-old standoff at the church—revered by Christians as the site of Jesus' birth—has become the focal point of the West Bank confrontation since the Israeli Army scaled back its biggest offensive in 20 years.

REUTERS

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators were close on Monday to ending a standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity with a deal exiling Palestinians wanted by Israel to Europe and the Gaza Strip.

"The negotiations are still continuing and they're going extremely well, but the people are not expected to come out of the church tonight (Sunday night). They are expected to come out tomorrow (Monday)," an Israeli military spokesperson said.

A source familiar with the negotiations said: "The deal is expected to involve 39 wanted men. Some will go to a European country and others will go to Gaza."

The men took refuge in the church, built over the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born, when Israeli troops swept into Bethlehem on April 2 as part of an anti-militant offensive in the West Bank.

Bethlehem Gov. Mohammed al-Madani said he had heard an "exile" deal was in the works. If so, it would be at odds with repeated statements by the Palestinian leadership rejecting exile as a way of resolving the 35-day standoff.

A senior Israeli security source said the main point of disagreement was how many men would be exiled—and where.

Scores of militants, Palestinian security men and civilians are in the church.

"There are 123 people inside, 10 of them are on Israel's most-wanted list and there are other armed terrorists (there)," an Israeli military source said.

One militant said he would accept exile in a negotiated deal. "I am ready to do anything President (Yasser) Arafat asks," he said by mobile phone from inside the church.

Reuters

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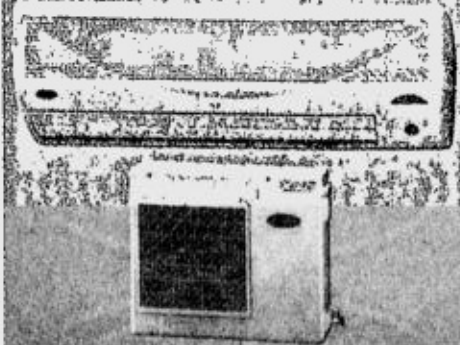


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S. Korea's Kim quits party over scandal

SEOUL—South Korean President Kim Dae-jung quit his ruling party and made a new public apology Monday as anger mounted nationwide over alleged corruption by his sons and aides.

Kim said in a statement read at a press conference by a top official: "How can I apologize enough for the scandal and public anger over my sons and some of the figures around me? I once again make a sincere apology."

This marked Kim's second public apology since he stood down as ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) leader in November last year in a bid to ease public discontent.

The president founded the MDP and turned it into his personal political force before the 1997 presidential election.

Kim said he and his wife had spent "days and nights agonizing" over allegations that his sons were involved in money-for-influence graft scandals.

"We hope, from the bottom of our hearts, that the cases will be handled strictly by the prosecution," he said, indicating the cases could be investigated.

The president vowed to devote himself to state affairs and ensure key national events such as the World Cup finals in June and the Asian Games in October were a success.

"I decided to quit the MDP to devote myself to state affairs during the remaining term of office," he said. His term as president ends in February next year after an election in December to find a replacement.

The former dissident has brought South Korea's economy back from the depths of the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his peace efforts toward Stalinist North Korea.

He made the fight against corruption one of his key reform policies when he took office in early 1998.

But his reputation was damaged by a string of graft allegations against those around him and which have already seen aides, relatives and government officials arrested or probed.

A nephew of the president's wife, Lee Hee-ho, and several associates of her sons were arrested for bribery this year.

And Kwon Roh-kap, one of the president's close associates, was jailed on Saturday for receiving bribes from a jailed businessman.

Local media have speculated that president Kim's second son, Kim Hong-up, is suspected of taking bribes from construction firms.

His third son, Kim Hong-gul, who is staying in the United States as an academic researcher, is suspected of exerting his influence in the government's selection of a sports betting operator.

AFP

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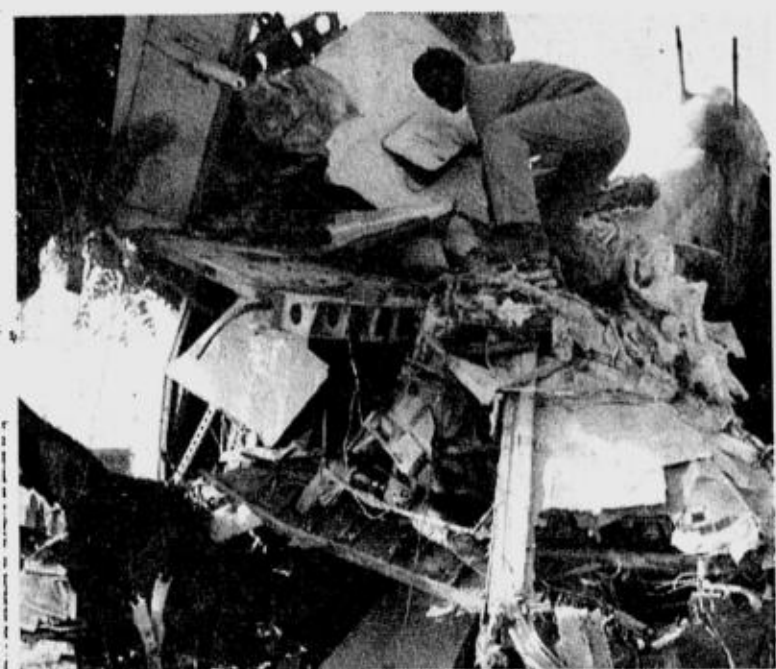


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A RESCUE worker scales wreckage May 5 at the site where a twin engine jet crashed onto buildings in the Gwamaja area of Kano, a northern Nigerian city.

REUTERS

4 on board Nigeria airliner survive crash

KANO, Nigeria—Exhausted rescuers dragged the remains of at least 148 people from the smoldering wreckage of an airliner which slammed into a crowded city in northern Nigeria, the local Red Cross said on Sunday.

President Olusegun Obasanjo declared two days of national mourning on Sunday, a day after the BAC 1-11-500 ploughed through a poor suburb of Kano shortly after takeoff.

Four people on board the flight survived the crash, operator EAS Airlines said.

As volunteers, some using bare hands, joined emergency crews working into a second night, sorrow turned to anger, with many residents accusing authorities of reacting slowly.

"The government has done nothing to help us. We have no water. We need antibiotics," said Saminu Sani Tofa, standing in front of his smashed house in the rundown Gwamaja district.

The Nigerian Red Cross put the death toll from those killed on the plane and on the ground at least 148 by Sunday.

"As of this afternoon 104 bodies were evacuated to the Murtala Muhammed Hospital, 42 to the Kano State Specialist Hospital, and two to the army specialist hospital," said Red Cross spokesperson Patrick Bawa in Lagos.

Red Cross vehicles ferried the dead to mortuaries as rescuers continued to dig through the rubble at the crash site.

It was Nigeria's worst air disaster for more than five years.

The dead included dozens of residents killed when the plane crashed into about 10 buildings, including a school and a mosque.

A Christening ceremony was in full swing in one house when the plane smashed into it.

Seventy-one passengers and eight crew members were on board the aircraft which was flying from Jos to Lagos via Kano, EAS Airlines said on Sunday.

"Three passengers and one crew member survived," it added in its first statement on the crash.

Obasanjo cut short an official tour of southern Africa to fly home as poorly equipped hospitals struggled to cope with the flood of dead and injured.

He is scheduled to visit the crash site on Monday.

"This is an accident that calls for immediate and detailed investigation to ascertain the cause or causes and to prevent recurrence," Obasanjo said in a broadcast address.

If necessary, foreign experts would join Nigerian aviation investigators, he said. In November 1996 a Nigerian Boeing 727 flying from Port Harcourt to Lagos came down, killing all 142 passengers and nine crew.

Nigeria deregulated its airline industry in the mid-1980s. Aviation authorities and passengers have raised concerns about the ageing aircraft used by the dozen or so local airline companies that sprang up to challenge the state monopoly.

Reuters

AIDS spreading rapidly in Asia-Pacific, UN warns

BANGKOK—HIV/AIDS is rapidly reaching epidemic proportions in parts of Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations warned Monday, adding that the newest threats are in India and China.

At the present rate of new infections, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Asia-Pacific could reach "monumental proportions," the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, or ESCAP, said in a statement.

The findings, revealed in a new UN study, will be presented to government ministers at an Escap conference in Bangkok from May 16 to 22.

While some Southeast Asia nations—including Cambodia, Burma and Thailand—have been facing high levels of HIV/AIDS for

some time, other countries are experiencing a rapid increase in the number of persons with the disease, the UN agency quoted the study as saying.

India, with 3.5 million infected people, is now second only to South Africa in the number of people living with HIV/AIDS.

At present seven million people in the region have the virus or the full blown disease, but China alone could have as many as 10 million people with HIV/AIDS by 2010 unless prevention programs are stepped up, the study was quoted as saying.

China's Health Ministry data indicate that HIV infections rose by 67.4 percent in the first six months of 2001, compared with the previous year, the study says.

More than 2 percent of Thailand's adult population, or 740,000 people, has HIV/AIDS. In Cambodia, more than 4 percent of the adult population is infected.

In Asia, the disease is mainly transmitted through heterosexual sex and intravenous drug use. People under the age of 24 are the most vulnerable, accounting for more than 50 percent of all new infections.

The study finds that HIV/AIDS prevention programs are poorly funded.

"There is a need for governments, civil society groups and the private sector to focus urgent attention to building political commitment and partnerships in the region to combat HIV/AIDS," the study says.

AP

German workers launch big strike

STUTTGART, Germany—Engineering workers launched Germany's first major strike in seven years on Monday, casting a pall over the fragile recovery in Europe's largest economy and over Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's reelection bid.

More than 50,000 workers in about 20 factories in the southwestern region of Baden-Wuerttemberg were due to down tools, hitting big firms like auto makers DaimlerChrysler AG, Porsche AG and Audi.

IG Metall, Germany's biggest industrial union, is demanding a wage hike of 6.5 percent for the sector's 3.6 million workers, saying they deserve significantly more than inflation because a

moderate deal reached two years ago was eroded by higher prices.

Wage talks broke down last month after the union rejected an offer from employers of a 3.3 percent pay rise over 15 months plus a one-time payment of \$175. The union had lowered its demand to about four percent during talks.

Outside the gleaming Porsche plant in the Stuttgart suburb of Zuffenhausen, several hundred workers waved red-and-yellow IG Metall flags and placards with slogans like "Fair pay for good work." More than 5,000 workers were due to down tools at the factory on Monday, the first strike at Porsche since 1984.

"Porsche is a symbol for the good work that is being done in

Germany. We want to ensure fair wages and safe jobs," Berthold Huber, IG Metall leader in Baden-Wuerttemberg, said to cheers.

"What we're doing is not war. It's a strike for economic progress . . . The employers have to stop making workers beg."

Economists warn that the strikes could undermine a tentative German recovery that Schroeder is banking on to help his Social Democrats recover in polls and retain power in a September election. A high settlement could also encourage the European Central Bank (ECB) to hike interest rates.

Schroeder, whose Social Democrats are traditional allies of the trade unions, has urged a speedy resumption of talks.

Reuters



VICTORY CELEBRATION

Latin folk dancers perform in front of the Washington monument during the Cinco de Mayo Festival May 5 in Washington. The festival commemorates the Mexican Army's 1862 victory over the French Army.

AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, May 7, 2002
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading:

Gospel:

Acts 16:22-34

Jn 16:5-11

Jesus said to his disciples, "But now I am going to the One who sent me and none of you asks me where I am going; instead you are overcome with grief because of what I have said."

Indeed believe me: It is better for you that I go away, because as long as I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go away, it is to send him to you, and when he comes, he will vindicate the truth in face of the world with regard to sin, to the way of righteousness, and to the Judgment.

What has been the sin? They did not believe in me. What is the way of righteousness? I am on the way to the Father, meanwhile you will not see me. What Judgment? The Ruler of this world has himself been condemned.

Commentary

To know they would soon lose the familiar companionship with Jesus filled his disciples with grief. But it was time. Jesus explains that their loss will be their gain. The security of seeing Jesus with their own eyes must give way to his new presence through the Holy Spirit, a presence everywhere at all times, wherever there is openness. It is a more intimate presence than they had previously enjoyed. Now Christ lives within them. The Spirit is presented here as a witness, defending Jesus as if in a court of law, showing up those who failed to believe because of resistance to truth. Has the "Ruler of this world" been condemned? Christ does not condemn. Our own actions condemn us. The Ruler of this world has condemned himself in destroying the Holy One sent by God, full of grace and truth.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Jurisdiction—Jurisdiction is more substantive than procedural. It refers to the authority of the court to hear and decide a case, and, it is one that is dictated by law, and the matter ordinarily can be raised at any stage of the trial, even upon appeal. The rule, of course, deviates from this general rule in criminal cases where *locus criminis* itself defines the jurisdiction of the trial court. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Gumabon v. Larin, G.R. No. 142523, November 27, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

France, world relieved as Chirac beats Le Pen

PARIS—France breathed a collective sigh of relief on Monday after dealing a crushing poll defeat to far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and returning conservative Jacques Chirac to power.

World leaders hailed Sunday's result as showing the strength of French democracy but overnight jubilation in France cooled by morning as the country began to turn its attention to the uncertain outcome of next month's parliamentary elections.

Chirac, whose 82 percent share of the vote gave him the widest winning margin in the 44-year history of France's 44-year Fifth Republic, was due on Monday to name a transition government after the resignation of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, ousted by Le Pen from the presidential runoff.

Frontrunners for the post of interim prime minister are moderate Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Gaullist Nicolas Sarkozy, who called on voters to end the awkward power-sharing of the past five years by voting out Jospin's Socialist government.

"PHEW" declared the front page of daily Liberation on Monday, who had urged it largely left-leaning readers to ensure rejection of Le Pen by voting Chirac despite wide discomfort over the

case for it in the future. Officials say the issues are legal ones tied to the Association's Constitution as a graveyard association, not racial ones.

Members also rejected proposals to create a separate "Families of Jefferson's Monticello" group and graveyard open to the descendants of anyone such as Hemings who lived or worked at Monticello during Jefferson's lifetime.

Hemings descendants, some of whom live as whites and some as blacks, say they want recognition by the Jefferson family group rather than formal membership or burial rights. They had called the proposals for a separate umbrella organization a throwback

to discrimination and segregation. The feud has been fueled by 200 years of speculation, Hemings family legend, and most recently a 1998 genetic study that linked the Jefferson male line to Hemings' youngest son Estlin and possibly other of her children.

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which operates Monticello, concluded that Jefferson was likely the father of one, and perhaps all of Hemings' offspring.

Hemings herself was the half-sister of Jefferson's wife Martha, who died in 1782 after 10 years of marriage. Jefferson was said to have promised his dying wife he would never remarry after her death.

leaze allegations that have dogged his career.

"Immense Victory," proclaimed conservative Le Figaro daily.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the vote was a defeat for Le Pen's "repellent" anti-immigrant, anti-Europe policies.

But his Europe minister Peter Hain said Le Pen's advance had been a warning to leaders to stop "navel-gazing" over the EU's future and address unemployment and crime.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, facing polls himself in September, hailed what he called a clear rebuff to the politics of extremism, while Washington sent Chirac its congratulations.

Reuters



CHIRAC waving to supporters.

AFP

Alleged Jefferson-Hemings affair stirs feud

By Christina Ling

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—Descendants of Thomas Jefferson and those of his slave Sally Hemings prayed together at his graveside on Sunday but remained divided by a centuries-old controversy over whether the third US president was their common ancestor.

The Monticello Association, whose more than 800 members claim direct descent from Jefferson's daughters Martha and Maria and own and maintain a family graveyard at Monticello, voted 74-6 at their annual meeting on Sunday to maintain criteria that they hold exclude Hemings descendants from membership.

The Jefferson family organization cited lack of evidence to support claims that the revered author of the Declaration of Independence fathered his slave's children.

"I think this (issue) is officially over for the Monticello Association," said John Works Jr. a former president of the group who commissioned a study into the controversy that found Jefferson's brother Randolph was the more likely father of Hemings' children.

Nathaniel Ablees, elected as association president at the annual meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia, said membership would be opened to Hemings kin if more advanced genetic analysis techniques made a

case for it in the future.

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Reuters

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-9971
E-mail: inq_bagui@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdvis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082) 244-1771
E-mail: pdmind@dv.weblink.com

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Cebu, Calbayog police chiefs sacked

By Jhunnex Napallacan
and Cynthia A. Borqueta
PDI isaye Bureau

CEBU CITY—The police chiefs of Cebu City and Calbayog City have been relieved following a series of unsolved robberies that hit their areas.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, Police Regional Office for Central Visayas (PRO-7) director, said Senior Supt. Lani-O Nerez was removed as chief of the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) effective yesterday on the request of acting Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama and other city officials.

Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, had already approved Nerez's relief, said Razon.

Nerez is temporarily assigned at the PRO-7 headquarters while Supt. Josephus Angan, the deputy CCPO chief, takes over as Cebu City police chief.

In Samar, Chief Insp. Eduardo Ladrera was removed as Calbayog City police chief on May 3 after two successive robberies were reported in the city last week.

Chief Insp. Lope Lim took over as Calbayog police chief while Ladrera was transferred to Sogod, Southern Leyte.

The relief of Nerez came following a two-hour meeting attended by Rama, some Cebu City councilors, Razon, Nerez and the city police's precinct and special unit commanders at the Cebu City hall.

During the meeting, Rama expressed dissatisfaction with Nerez's performance following a series of unsolved robberies that hit Cebu City since last month.

Rama had given Nerez one month to solve the robberies. The deadline was supposed to end on May 12.

But Rama said he did not wait for May 12

because Nerez had failed to put up measures that would prevent and solve robbery cases in Cebu City.

Nerez, the mayor noted, had a leadership problem although he was a good police officer. Razon told the INQUIRER that most of the councilors also asked for the relief of Nerez.

But Nerez told reporters that he was just a "victim" of politics in Cebu City Hall.

He lamented that many Cebu City Hall officials wanted to play the role of chief of police as they even want to have a hand in the deployment of policemen around the city.

But Nerez lamented that he had done his best as CCPO director. He claimed that he even slept in his office and did not have time for his family who is now in Toledo City, some 50 kilometers from Cebu City.

Razon described Nerez as a good and hardworking police officer who had done his best as Cebu City police director.

But he said he could not let Nerez stay in his post because city officials wanted him removed.

Ladrera's relief was in compliance with the memorandum of Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, police chief for Eastern Visayas, dated April 15, warning police chiefs that they would be removed from their posts if they failed to thwart robberies in their areas.

In his memorandum, Yoro said a police chief would be placed under investigation if a single robbery-holdup incident happened in his area of responsibility.

The police chief would be relieved from his post if two robberies were reported in his area. The provincial director would be removed from his post if three robbery cases were reported in his area.

Two days after the memorandum took effect, two robberies were reported in Calbayog. On April 29, another robbery was reported in Sta. Rita, Samar.



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Baguio courts emptied as CA summons all 5 judges to probe start

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Six courtrooms of the Baguio City Justice Hall were empty on Monday, surprising litigants and delaying a highly anticipated decision on a kidnap-for-ransom case that was a subject of a Senate inquiry on narco politics last year.

That's because five regional trial court judges will be at the Court of Appeals today to undergo a formal investigation of corruption and immorality charges hurled at them in February by Judge Ruben Ayson.

Only Deputy Executive Judge Fernando Pamintuan was left to administer the Justice Hall, said lawyer Delilah Muñoz, RTC clerk of court.

Court records showed that Ayson's formal charge sheet now includes two other judges, including the trial judge hearing the libel suit against actress Rosanna Roces.

Judge Abraham Borreta of the Pasig regional trial court Branch 154 was asked to join the hearing because of his long association as Baguio judge with defendant Judges Edilberto Claravall, Amado Caguioa and Clarence Villanueva, and Executive Judge Antonio Reyes Jr.

Ayson accused the four judges of, among other things, graft and fraud in *ex parte* proceedings which, he said, were tolerated here for a decade. He also accused one of them of adultery for begetting "two children born-out-of-wedlock."

Judge Antonio Esteves also went on a four-day leave this week to join the accused, after he was implicated by Ayson in specific cases of gambling and carousing inside the Justice Hall.

"I rushed to see what will happen to my case, but there was no judge, so what will happen to me?" a litigant complained to the INQUIRER.

Outside the courtrooms, many clerks hanged around apparently to take advantage of the sudden workweek lull. Only the municipal trial court was jam-packed.

At the office of the clerk of court, Justice Christopher Lock, Supreme Court deputy administrator, and his staff were busy auditing the city's case dockets.

"This (audit) should be routine, yet we cannot help but think this is related to (the Court of Appeals probe)," said Muñoz.

Trial lawyers here were generally amused by the emptied RTC courtrooms.

"I did not mind it. It means a little vacation for the lawyers," said Florio Domalsin, a public attorney defending two Chinese who were accused of abducting three Chinese businessmen here in January 2000.

Domalsin was expecting Ayson to issue a decision on their case on Monday.

Controversial undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong had denounced the kidnapping of Chinese businessmen Jia Xuan Zheng, Liu Yao Wu and Sin Ho during a Senate inquiry as a staged abduction by the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

"But Judge Ayson will be the principal (party) to the CA hearings this week, so we moved the promulgation date to May 14," he said.

According to court documents, Ayson's amended charges concentrate on a judge's allegedly adulterous affair, a series of *ex parte* proceedings facilitated illegally by a judge's employee, and for which, the judge's employees supposedly had charged fees, and docket records which, he said, suggest that court employees dictated where a controversial case would be addressed.

Ayson also accused a Baguio judge of issuing court orders that were written by his employees.

Earlier, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. turned over to the appellate court the documents obtained by a fact-finding team that looked into the allegations hurled by Ayson at the four judges.

"It is the Court of Appeals which is procedurally tasked to hear and investigate these matters. (Davide) facilitated a fact-finding mission when he sent (Justice Christopher) Lock to Baguio to review (Ayson's allegations)," one of the accused judges told the INQUIRER.

Another accused judge said a March directive from Davide, which transferred the case to the CA, had suggested that Lock's fact-finding mission could not find verifiable evidence to prove most of Ayson's charges.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines members, who were earlier interviewed by the INQUIRER, said they guided Lock through "a mud work of rumors" that Ayson supposedly capitalized on in accusing the four judges of varying degrees of petty graft and ethical offenses.

World Asthma Day Celebrations

Asthma is in the spotlight again as different countries around the globe celebrate World Asthma Day on May 7, 2002. Spearheaded by the National Asthma Movement in the Philippines, this global event comes right on the heels of a recent study made on asthma which gave surprising results on the reality of asthma control in the Philippines.

Worldwide, Asthma is a major health problem that has affected over 100 million people. Medical experts are optimistic however that asthmatics will be able to control this chronic long-term disease with proper education and management.

In 1993 in fact, in the consensus report of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP), specialists agreed on the long-term asthma management goals to improve the quality of life of asthmatics. Its first major long-term goal is: minimal or no asthma symptoms. Other goals call for minimal asthma episodes or attacks; no emergency visits to doctors or hospitals; minimal need for pm beta-2 agonists (quick relief bronchodilators); no limitation on physical activities and exercise; and nearly normal lung function.

However, a recent study on asthma control called Asthma Insights and Reality in Asia Pacific (AIRIAP) gave a different picture of the asthma control situation in the Philippines. AIRIAP suggests that asthma control here falls far short of the global ideal.

AIRIAP study shows that 30% of Filipino asthmatics exhibit daytime symptoms at least

once a week and another 26% are awakened by symptoms at night at least once a week. Forty-six percent of asthmatics have been hospitalized or made emergency visits to physicians in the past year. Up to 94% are

asthmatics are unaware of the root causes of asthma attacks, believing only the symptoms can be addressed. Another factor is that asthmatics tend to underestimate their condition and overestimate their symptom control. In fact, 47% of severe persistent asthmatics claim that their asthma is well controlled!

What these factors suggest is that there is a wide window of opportunity for improving the current management of asthma in the Philippines. Knowledge, education, regular monitoring by health professionals, and patient interest in understanding his illness better all play big roles in gaining control of asthma.

This window of opportunity will be open to all during the World Asthma Day celebrations where experts will be talking to media about the proper control and management of asthma. The member groups of the National Asthma Movement will also be conducting activities.

Coinciding with this global event is GSK Foundation's launching of the Asthma FREE Program. The Program is designed to reinforce doctors' efforts in caring for asthmatic patients by providing asthma educational materials, free severity tests and individualized monitoring of asthmatic patients. Its important feature is a counsel number 757-3693 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-830-1000 (provincial toll free) where specially-trained asthma counselors will assist the patient in enrolling for the program. The counsel number is open from Monday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**WORLD ASTHMA DAY™
2002**

Let every person breathe

currently using short-acting beta-2 agonist quick relief medicines and 45% of Filipino asthmatics also admitted that their asthma symptoms restrict them from participating in sports and recreational activities.

Several factors brought about the gap. Startling among them is that 81% of

World Asthma Day Activities

Slogan-making contest
Theme: *Let Every Person Breathe*
An activity of the Asthma Control Club for Education, Prevention and Treatment of Nueva Ecija (ACCEPT N.E.)

Asthma Workshop and Seminar
Premiere General Hospital, Nueva Ecija,
2-5 p.m.
An activity of ACCEPT N.E.

Free Asthma Screening
National Children's Hospital, 9 a.m.-12 nn
A project of National Children's Hospital - Project HOPE (Hika, Oplan, Pang-twas at Edukasyon)

Asthma Clinic
Every Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 nn
A project of the Caraga Regional Hospital Asthma Club

Asthma Education Program
Every Saturday Afternoon
A project of the Caraga Regional Hospital Asthma Club

Asthma Screening for 6 to 19 years old
Philippine Heart Center, 8 a.m. - 12 nn

Exhibit
Venue: Lobby, Medical Arts Building,
Philippine Heart Center

Free Asthma Screening Clinic (Spirometry)
Medical Center Manila, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Poster-making contest
Inhaler Technique Challenge Booth

Film Showing on Active Living
May 6-12
A project of the Pulmonary Section, UP-PGH

Symposium - Winning over Wheezes and Whoezes: Managing the Allergic Patient
May 20
A project of the Phil. Medical Association (PMA)

If you or anyone you know has asthma, call the Asthma FREE Counsel number now at tel. nos.: 757-3693 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-830-1000 (Provincial Toll-Free)

NAM
NATIONAL ASTHMA MOVEMENT
Philippines

**ASTHMA FREE
PROGRAM**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao especially the Eastern section will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Luzon and Visayas will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metropolitan Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Laang	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/07/02

ROUNDUP

'Jueteng' men held

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested 10 *jueteng* bet collectors in separate raids here last week. Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police chief, said seven suspects were caught while conducting draws in Barangay Camp 7 here on May 2. Three other suspects were nabbed along Zamora Street on May 1. Seized from the suspects were cellular phones, *jueteng* paraphernalia and at least P2,000 in bet money. Bumanglag said the suspects used cellular phones to relay the winning combinations to other "jueteng" employees. *Roschelle Codog and Katrina Quijano, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 drown, 2 missing

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two girls drowned while two of their companions were missing after they took a dip at the Cagayan River on Thursday, police said. The bodies of Abigail, 17, and Nina Camba, 15, both of Caloocan City, were recovered while those of Cirino Batan, 40, and Richard Camba, 17, have yet to be found. Strong water current swept Nina and Richard away while Batan and Abigail Camba tried to help them.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Competitive cities

BAGUIO CITY—This city ranked third among the country's middle-sized cities in the city competitiveness ranking project sponsored by the Asian Institute of Management and Department of Trade and Industry. General Santos City topped the list, followed by Bacolod City. The DTI and AIM judged 33 cities based on the cost of doing business, dynamism of local autonomy, accessibility, quality of human resources, infrastructure, responsiveness and quality of life.

Audrey Velasco, Northern Luzon Bureau

Baguio museum

BAGUIO CITY—Rep. Mauricio Domogan allocated P8 million for the construction of the Baguio Mountain Province Museum near the Baguio City National High School. Domogan also asked the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to set aside P1.2 million for the museum construction. The museum used to be located at the Baguio Convention Center until the center was closed for renovation.

Catherine de la Chica, Northern Luzon Bureau

Rice terraces foundation

KIANGAN, Ifugao—Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. is pushing for the establishment of a foundation to help address the deterioration of the Ifugao rice terraces. The move is an offshoot of the abolition in February of the Banaue Terraces Task Force that was mandated to oversee efforts to save the terraces. Baguilat also backed the establishment of the Ifugao Historical and Cultural Society and the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Center to help document and preserve indigenous culture and practices. *Audrey Velasco and Catherine de la Chica, Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPA owns killing

ILOILO CITY—The New People's Army has owned up the April 24 killing of Ramon Eucare, a suspected military informer, in Barangay Ambarihon, Tubungan, Iloilo. In a statement, Ka Ariston Remus, spokesperson of the NPA's Napoleon Tumatang Command, said Eucare was meted the rebel's "death sentence" because he, and suspected informers Domingo Eucare and Alberto Alfaro, were responsible for "many incidents of raids" against the NPA. The same NPA unit killed Domingo and Alfaro on Dec. 19, 2001 in Barangay Tablac, Igbaras town.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Police maltreatment

CEBU CITY—A Jeepney driver from Consolacion, Cebu, claimed the police manhandled him after he was picked up by the team of policemen from Cebu City because of his alleged connection with suspected robbery gang leader Riel Bautista. Ivy Balaba, 25, claimed he was maltreated by the police to force him to admit to being a member of Bautista's gang. Balaba said he knew Bautista but denied being part of his gang. Police believed that Bautista, a city jail escapee, led the P400,000 robbery at Optus Communications and Gadget Trading on May 1 when the police were busy securing President Macapagal-Arroyo who spoke in a Labor Day gathering at the Cebu Coliseum.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

ECC urged

BACOLOD CITY—The Central Negros Power Corp. (CNPC) has asked the court here to compel Environment Secretary Hershon Alvarez to restore the Environment Compliance Certificate issued by former Secretary Antonio Cerilles for the 50-megawatt coal-fired power plant it planned to construct in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental. Alvarez ordered the CNPC in October last year to stop the construction of the power plant because the CNPC failed to submit to the Environment Management Board a Comprehensive Land Use Plan approved by the provincial board. In its petition, the CNPC maintained that all requirements have been complied with.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

CONTRACTOR'S CLAIM

Hotel sewage threat to Baguio watershed

BAGUIO CITY—A contractor of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo) blew the whistle on its employer's newly opened Camp John Hay Manor, whose supposed sewage violations allegedly threatened the watershed that supplies rationed water to outlying villages here.

Lawyer Editha Ocampo-Arciaga, counsel for the marketing manager of Bauer International, said the 189-room Manor opened to good business in December last year despite the absence of a sewage treatment plant (STP), which her client's firm had contracted to build two years ago.

Bauer holds the contract for the Manor STP, as well as for the STP that will service the John Hay log homes at the former Voice of America compound. CJHDevCo had already built a sewage treatment plant for its Camp John Hay Golf Clubhouse, which began operations in 2000.

Benigno Cabrieto Jr., CJHDevCo chief operating officer, said there was no proof that the Manor caused a minor

sewage spill that was detected on Sunday in a gully by a city investigating team led by Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, the city's acting mayor.

He said the Manor was operating a transitory and chlorinated septic tank, pending the completion of the Manor's P19.7-million sewage treatment facility.

But during a Saturday press conference, Arciaga said her client, Bauer marketing manager Annabelle Salazar, had suspended work on the Manor STP for two years now because of CJHDevCo's alleged debts to Bauer.

As a result, Arciaga claimed, sewage had been detected at a waterway 100 meters away from the Manor, which flows into tributaries leading to the nearby Greenwater village.

The Manor recorded a 58-percent reservation rate for its available 68 rooms on Dec. 1 last year, and saw it increase by 20 to 30 percent during the Fil-Am Amateur Golf Tournament that month. The hotel is currently under construction and had only 72 rooms available to clients during last year's "soft opening."

"On account of the (Manor's) failure to pay Bauer what is due it, the company cannot finish the (STP) and has put the project on hold. (But) a visit to the (Manor) revealed that the hotel is now in full operation. We can only presume that the hotel has obtained the necessary occupancy permit. We venture to query though: How and why was the hotel able to secure such a permit (with the absence of an STP)? How could the people behind the hotel assume that they could escape with impunity for such an illegal act?" Arciaga said in a May 3 letter to Councilor Richard Cariño.

Cariño, a critic of the John Hay development, is chair of the city council's committee on health, sanitation, ecology and environmental protection.

Engineer Brigitte Ancheta, a member of the city's Public Utilities Services Office (PUSO), who joined Tabanda's investigation team, said she found evidence of sewage spillover from an old septic line, which was built by the defunct Camp John Hay Air Station in the 1970s.

The waste spillage is streaming to-

ward a John Hay gully, at the base of the incomplete sewage treatment plant, she said.

But Ancheta said tests are needed to determine the Manor's contribution to the sewage problems.

"I am told that the Manor has a separate septic tank. But (Ancheta) says it is also connected to the old American septic tank, whose septic pipes may be damaged. I am waiting for a more detailed technical report from the team, but I am instructing (the government-owned) John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC) to fix this sewage problem now," Tabanda said after visiting the site.

Cabrieto said check dams built near the John Hay hillsides would prevent the polluted water from spilling toward the communities.

He added that CJHDevCo has been speeding up a cleanup program as early as two weeks ago because the polluted water is being treated and recycled for use on John Hay's golf courses.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

More farmers protest hunger, demand food

BACOLOD CITY—Another group of farmers held a protest rally outside the house of Bacolod Rep. Monico Puenteveilla at Burgos Extension here on Saturday, demanding that they, too, be given sacks of rice.

The 700 members of the Gutom nga Pumuluyo Movement also claimed that they, too, were suffering from severe hunger like the protesters who camped in front of the Provincial Administration Center (PAC) and later broke into a National Food Authority warehouse to get rice last week.

But some of those leading the rally participants in the congressman's house were also seen at the protest at the PAC last week.

A protester said she joined the rally after someone told them to prepare P5 for the fare and a sack of rice because they would be given rice.

The group claimed that they were from Barangays Handumanan, Mandalagan, Bata, Taculing and 10 in Bacolod City.

They arrived at Puenteveilla's house at about 9 a.m. A witness heard some of them saying that if they were not allowed to enter, they would force their way in.

Puenteveilla, who came from Manila, arrived in his home past 11 a.m. He met with the protesters who demanded that he give them rice.

Puenteveilla told them that a process should be followed in the release of the rice. But he promised them that he would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to hasten the release of the rice when he accompanies her on a state visit to Malaysia and Thailand starting tomorrow.

He also encouraged the protesters to form a cooperative so that they could be given government assistance for livelihood projects.

The congressman earlier said the President had approved the release of 10,000 bags of rice for Negros Occidental and Bacolod City.

These came from the 32,090 bags of smuggled rice earlier seized from the MV Murphy in December last year. The shipment was forfeited in favor of the government.

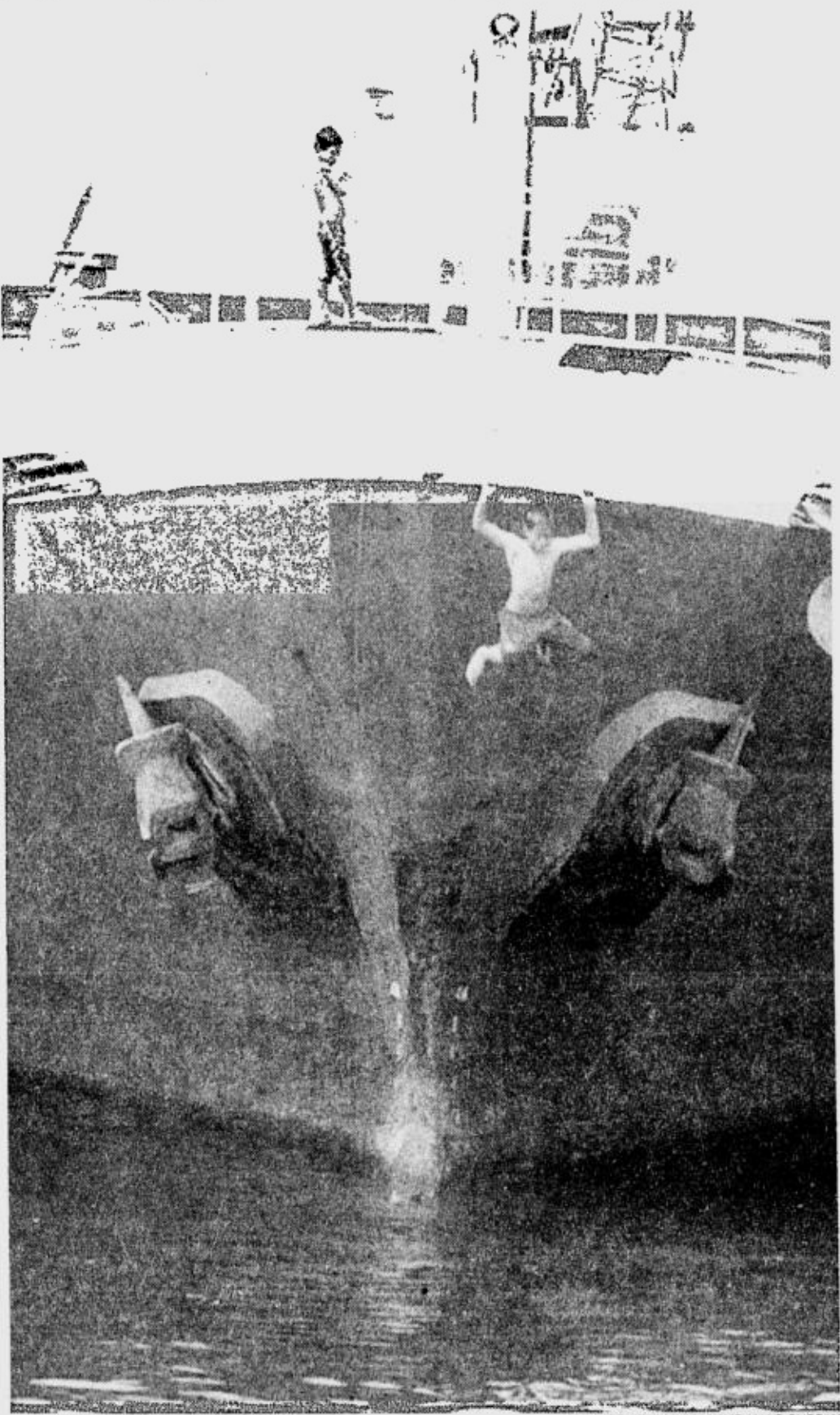
The protest at Puenteveilla's house came three days after about 500 farm workers ransacked the NFA warehouse on Gatuslao Street here at noon on May 1 and took with them 10 sacks of rice. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

P450,000 offered for information on mayor's killer

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Regional Peace and Order Council here is giving P450,000 to anybody who could give information on the suspects in the April 22 killing of Mayor Jesus Sebastian of Jones, Isabela.

Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, RPOC chair, said the initial P200,000 was taken from the funds of the Isabela peace and order council, while the remaining P250,000 was pooled from contributions of private groups and individuals whom he did not identify.

Agbayani made the disclosure in a closed-door meeting of the regional development council (RDC) and the RPOC with President



DANGEROUS PASTTIME

A boy leaps from a docked cargo vessel at the Sta. Ana wharf in Davao City while a companion looks on.

Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The amount will only be given to sources who can provide information leading to the capture of Mayor Sebastian's killers," Agbayani said.

The Benito Tesorio Command of the New People's Army claimed responsibility for Sebastian's murder. The NPA accused Sebastian of receiving commissions from various infrastructure projects, illegal logging, land grabbing and violating human rights.

Sebastian's supporters and relatives dismissed the NPA's allegations, saying the mayor was a man of integrity and a dedicated

public servant.

According to Agbayani, the President expressed concern that funding requests for infrastructure and livelihood projects for the region might go to waste because of the latest threat to peace and order here.

"How can our projects benefit our people if there are incidents like people being robbed or kidnapped, or killed?" Agbayani quoted Ms Macapagal as asking.

Agbayani said he had assured the President that all steps were being taken to address the threats. *Ben Moses Ebreo and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NEA blamed for Aklan electric co-op woes

THE GENERAL manager of the Aklan Electric Cooperative called for comprehensive and strategy-based NEA policies on solving electric co-operative problems and for consistency and due process in any takeover of ailing cooperatives.

Leovigildo Mationg said in a press statement that the National Electrification Administration cannot just be "whimsical and arbitrary" in taking over the management of electric co-ops with problems.

Most of the problems that are weighing down electric co-ops' operations are systematic and reflect the NEA's own failures in providing broad solutions, he said.

"NEA administrator Francisco Silva did not even bother to suspend me formally much less give specific basis for my removal," said Mationg.

"Akelco has been forcibly taken over by NEA supposedly for gross mismanagement. Yet Akelco has been under NEA supervision in the last eight or 10 years," he said.

"Their (NEA) project supervisors have approved all transactions and management decisions. Now they are blaming me?" added Mationg.

"The problems at Akelco are symptomatic of problems of electric cooperatives in general and were only aggravated by the unique difficulties in the Akelco service area," he said.

According to Mationg, three percent of the Akelco's systems loss was due to the delay in the upgrading of the Nabas-Caticlan line to 69 kilovolts.

Silliman U taken to task for stench from pig, chicken farm

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Health Office here on Tuesday ordered the Silliman University to institute measures to reduce air and water pollution from its seven-hectare Schiede Farm in Barangay Bantayan.

A group of sanitary inspectors said the Silliman University, recognized internationally for its role in protecting the environment and in promoting environmental awareness, was found violating the law on waste disposal.

Rogelio Clamonte, solid waste management chair, and City Health Officer Erlinda Cabrera, said the Silliman Uni-

versity has violated Chapter 9 of Presidential Decree 856, with regard to its disposal of waste at the Silliman Schiede Farm.

The law mandates that animal manure shall be stored and dried at a minimum distance of 500 meters from residential, commercial or industrial areas, or at distances approved by the local health officer.

SU president Dr. Agustin Pulido said they were already correcting the deficiencies after receiving the recommendations of the sanitary inspectors.

He said they would invite the sanitary inspectors again after complying with the requirements, to determine if the measures were adequate.

The farm was inspected last week after nine families living near the farm complained of the unbearable stench caused by uncollected or improperly collected manure especially during the Holy Week.

In their complaint, they said this was not the first time that they lodged a complaint against Schiede Farm. The farm, established in 1938, started operating a poultry and piggery in 1969.

During an inspection of the farm premises last week, a team led by Clamonte discovered that the poultry dung collected from 1,800 chickens was being stored in an enclosed concrete shed, only 50 meters from the houses of the complaining neighbors.

The farm also has a piggery with 18 sow, one boar and several piglets. But the wastes from the piggery, the complainants said, are directly dumped into the Dumaguete-Sibulan creek.

The farm has no septic tank for the solid and semi-solid waste from its piggery, located only 100 meters away from the houses of the complainants.

The team asked the Silliman Schiede Farm, through operations head Luis Jose Pascual, to remove chicken dung daily and to construct a septic tank for the piggery.

The farm was also ordered to cover the manure shed with sawdust or rice hulls to minimize the foul odor.

Burma's Suu Kyi mobbed by supporters

From page A1

months and more would be freed soon, provided they were not a threat to national stability.

"Today marks the start of a new page for the people of Myanmar (Burma) and the international community," the junta said.

"We shall recommit ourselves to allowing all of our citizens to participate freely in the life of our political process while giving precedence to national unity, peace and the stability of the country as well as the region."

Suu Kyi, 56, has spent years in house arrest since emerging as a leader of Burma's democracy movement in 1988 after the military bloodily suppressed anti-government protests. The military has ruled the country since a 1962 coup.

Suu Kyi's release in 1995 from confinement to her house that had begun in 1989 was marked by jubilant scenes as crowds thronged the street outside.

Monday's celebrations were the most overt display of support since then. Among the on-lookers were groups of monks, some of them children, in crimson robes. Shaven-headed nuns wearing pink carried paper umbrellas to ward off the tropical sun.

No restrictions

At her news conference, Suu Kyi said there were no restrictions on her movement. "I can go wherever I like," she said, adding that the NLD had not changed its stance on opposing foreign investment, aid and tourism in Burma while the military government remained in place.

Human rights group Amnesty International said it welcomed the fact that Suu Kyi's release was unconditional.

"We hope that it will be followed by the releases of the hundreds of other prisoners held for their peaceful political views. There are around 1,500 of them," it said.

Observers said that while Suu Kyi's freedom was a step forward, it did not mean the junta was about to open its arms to democracy.

"There are still so many obstacles, and the NLD and international community should be very wary in this process," said Somchai Homla-or, secretary general of the Bangkok-based human rights organization Forum Asia.

"The groups who are in power will not easily give up their power because it's not just political but economic. They won't step down if there is no pressure from outside."

The NLD is regarded by many in the international community as Burma's legitimate government. It won the country's last elections in 1990 by a landslide, but the junta refused to hand over power.

Release overdue

Britain said it was delighted at Suu Kyi's release.

"I warmly welcome the news that Aung San Suu Kyi has been released," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in a statement. "Her freedom is long overdue and we hope

she is allowed to carry out her responsibilities as general secretary (of the NLD) freely and openly."

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the release was a positive step. "We encourage the Burmese government to build on this by taking further steps to advance the process," Downer said in a statement.

Neither the White House nor the US Department of State had any immediate comment on the release.

Suu Kyi was greeted by party officials dressed in their best for the occasion, wearing the NLD uniform of an orange jacket, white shirt and a green-and-blue checked longyi, the traditional sarong-style clothing for men.

Suu Kyi has been confined to her house with her telephone line cut since September 2000 after trying to defy a government ban on travel outside the capital.

'Very little'

"The release by itself means very



THE GOOD news about the release of their leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, is received with much rejoicing.



TRIUMPHANT Suu Kyi faces reporters in Rangoon. REUTERS

little," said Jeremy Woodrum, director of the Washington office of the Free Burma Coalition.

"It's important to remember she was released in 1995 after six years and nothing changed. We don't want her release to be just her moving to a bigger cage."

State media said on Friday the trial

had begun of four relatives of elderly former dictator Ne Win who were arrested in March and accused of planning a coup.

Like his old enemy Suu Kyi, Ne Win is now being held in house arrest. But unlike Suu Kyi, Ne Win is expected to stay in detention for the rest of his life.

Reports by Reuters and AP

RP hails release

THE PHILIPPINE government yesterday welcomed the release of Nobel peace laureate and Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, hailing the move as part of Rangoon's "continuing engagement in democratic politics."

In his regular press briefing in Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said Suu Kyi's release would have "a very strong impact on the development of electoral politics" in Burma.

"This is welcomed by all freedom-loving peoples of the world," he added.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad congratulated both Suu Kyi and Burma's military rulers.

"It is progress... it shows common sense on the part of both Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as the government of Myanmar (Burma), and both should be commended," Mahathir said.

It was at the urging of another Malaysian, UN envoy Razali Ismail, that Burma's ruling military junta and the head of the opposition National League for Democracy finally agreed on the terms of her release.

With report from AFP

Per DTI-NCR Permit # A1-265, Series of 2002



Want to know what your Mom would love to have on Mother's Day?

(FOLD HERE)



GIVE YOUR MOM A KISS OR BUY HER A GIFT AT LANDMARK TO MAKE HER REALLY REALLY HAPPY. GET UP TO 50% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS! MAY 6-12, 2002

THE LANDMARK

Pinay worker wins P34.5M in Taiwan

From page A1

distance telephone draw held on April 30.

Yuli was the fourth winner of the Chunghwa Telecom 009 IDD lucky draw.

"This is the first time in my life that I have won anything," Yuli said after receiving an NT\$1-million check from Vice Minister Chang Chia-juch of the Taiwanese Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

She said she would give "most of the money to her family in the Philippines and a little to myself."

Yuli serves as a warehouse caretaker at a factory in Tainan in southern Taiwan, occasionally buying a Chunghwa Telecom international pre-paid phone card to check up on her family back home.

The phone card qualified her for the telephone giant's weekly promo draw.

Despite her windfall, Yuli said she had no plans of going back home soon. She said she would finish her job contract that ends in November.

Yuli declined to divulge her name "out of necessity." About three-fourths of the 300,000 foreign workers in Taiwan use false identities to circumvent local laws that prohibit the extension of their stay in this country beyond three years. Taiwanese employers turn a blind eye on such as practice as they get to save time and money in training new workers.

The jackpot could not have come at a better time for Yuli. She, together with about 100,000 overseas Filipino workers in Taiwan, had to accept a 30-percent cut in monthly pay earlier this year.

Taiwan slashed to P11,500 from P15,500 the minimum wage for foreign workers effective this year.

Yuli was not the only Filipino overseas worker in Taiwan media last week.

OFW poetry

The popular Chinese-language free magazine POTS, which bills itself as "The Voice of Generation Next," headlined the works of the Samahang Makata-Taiwan, which recently held a poetry contest.

The winner of the contest was Blessie Landingin. Unlike Yuli, however, Landingin yearned for home in her poem, "Taiwan."

The POTS cover quoted from her poem: "A stranger in your land as I seemed to you/ Like an intruder I am judged with malice/ I am never tried, but convicted in your strong pillars/ Confused and helpless, yet stand still/ In the hope that someday I am orphaned by a home named Taiwan."

In his poem "Working Abroad Is Not Easy," second placer Jun Sanchez advised his fellow OFWs to be more open in their encounter with an entirely different culture.

"Always think, you're not in your country/ And be good in all aspects/ Their traditions, you should love and respect," Sanchez wrote.

About 75 percent of OFWs in Taiwan work in the factories, construction sites or fishing vessels. About 25 percent work as domestics or caretakers, like Yuli.

Only a few are poets, and only one in a million will likely hit it big like Yuli.

P35-B pork sparks fight among lawmakers

From page A1

This system, dubbed Alternative 1, includes Foreign Assisted Projects (FAPs). Alternative 6 does not include FAPs.

Locked in the dispute for two weeks now, the representatives were to choose one scheme from several proposals on how to divide the infrastructure budget among the districts.

But the task proved too daunt-

ing and ticklish. They decided to defer the voting.

13 ways

The dispute was so big that the two committees came up with 13 ways to divide the infrastructure pork barrel.

During the hearing, Rep. Junie Cua said the two committees should find a "happy compromise" to avoid a showdown in the plenary. "If we vote now, it will be very divisive," he said.

Cua urged the committees to postpone the voting by one week to enable House members to think of other ways of dividing the pie. By a vote of 32-20, the committees put off the voting.

But even before the committees could vote, many congressmen questioned the authority of the two committees to decide on the fund allocation.

Rep. Lawrence Wacnang said the public works committee had

jurisdiction over the matter.

Wacnang said the public works committee's stand was right because it wanted equal distribution of the funds. He said the poor districts were deprived of the funds they needed to improve their infrastructure.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., appropriations committee chair, said that the allocation of the DPWH infrastructure budget was well within the exclusive jurisdiction of

his committee. Yet, the appropriations committee decided to hold a joint hearing and joint voting with the public works committee.

But Rep. Prospero Pichay questioned the "propriety" and wisdom of the proceedings.

"You have one committee approving a scheme and you have another committee with another scheme. What will happen to the (public works committee's vote?) You have to put order into this kind of hearing," Rep. Prospero Pichay said.

A visibly irked Andaya shot back, saying he did not mind if members of the committees put off the voting on any proposal. "That's fine with me. Just don't come to me come

budget time to complain," he said.

Andaya said it would be unfair to members of the House if they did not discuss alternative ways of allocating the infrastructure fund.

Public Works Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion was asked to explain before the two committees the formula for "scarcity" of infrastructure as a component in computing the share of each district.

Encarnacion said "scarcity" covered road density, number of unpaved roads and other land considerations in a district.

Akbayan Partylist Rep. Etta Rosales asked during the hearing what formula was prescribed for partylist groups.

Cimatu shares good news with men . . .

From page A1

She challenged those who do not agree with her decision to come forward and openly question her choice.

"I challenge anybody to name who will be jeopardized by (the appointment)," the President said. "I challenge anybody who will tell me that they were jeopardized."

Cimatu, who belongs to Class 1970 of the Philippine Military Academy, was chosen over more senior candidates, including AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gregorio Camiling and AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya.

The President said Cimatu's term would be extended, after which she "will again assess candidates for the post."

"For now I will extend his term up to Sept. 1," the President said.

Closing ranks

Military officers across the country, from Isabela up north to Isabela down south, closed ranks behind the decision, in a bid to put an end to the controversy that preceded the selection.

"I am very happy that the President has finally announced my successor," Villanueva told defense reporters. "At least the competition between the contenders would be put to an end and the rumors would end."

Abaya, one of the top three contenders, sounded the call for support.

"As I have maintained before, the choice was made. That matter is a sole prerogative of the President and the AFP is a very professional organization and we will support the decision of the President," Abaya said.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command and Cimatu's "mistah" at the PMA, said the new appointee had the "support of the men and women of the AFP." He brushed aside the controversy, saying it was mere "noise" and "acoustics."

In Isabela, Cagayan, Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said he and his men would support Cimatu because the decision came from the country's commander in chief.

"That decision of the President is normal to us. So, whatever will be the action and whoever (the) official appointed, we will follow the chain (of command)," Alvarado said.

In Isabela, Basilan, Col. Alexander Aleo, the 103rd Army Brigade commander, said there was no need for Cimatu to prove his worth as AFP chief of staff "because his records speak for him."

The Philippine Military Academy also declared its full support, to dispel insinuations that it was breeding insurrectionists. "We are



"GENERAL PACMAN" Cimatu is fondly called for leading the forces that recovered 40 MILF military camps two years ago including its headquarters Camp Abubakar. In this file photo taken in 2000, he was the 4th Infantry Division head shown here inspecting Camp Bushra with Marine Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio after its recovery from the MILF.

EDWIN BACASMAS

and will always be an apolitical sector, so we will always submit to the decisions of the commander in chief," said Capt. Edgardo Arevalo, PMA spokesperson. "All the reports about contenders who jockeyed or lobbied for the position simply mean there are so many qualified for the post. And the one to take that post is like the suitor who won a fair maiden's heart. In this case, Cimatu won that heart," he said.

Politicians too

Administration legislators also voiced support for the President's choice. Senate President Franklin Drilon urged the military and the Senate to accept Cimatu's appointment, saying he believed it was best for the AFP and the country.

"All the contenders, without doubt, are eminently qualified, but the buck stops at the President's desk and she had to make a decision, which we assume was based on a thorough examination and review of all the relevant factors," Drilon said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar said Cimatu was a "good choice," the preference not only of the President, he said, but also of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"I've always believed in Cimatu because he is a good military general," Villar said.

The chair of the Senate defense committee, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., also welcomed the decision. His counterpart in the House, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., did the same.

"He's very qualified and he has the full trust and confidence of the President," Pichay said. He urged those in the military who had been against Cimatu's promotion to close ranks behind the new appointee.

"They have to accept that, they

have to be very professional. Now that the President has spoken, I think that issue should be laid to rest," Pichay said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff turned opposition legislator, also asked the other contenders to accept the President's choice. But he insisted that the President reconsider extending Cimatu's term.

"The issue of extending the services of Lt. Gen. Cimatu should be a matter where deeper and more serious evaluation be made," he said.

He pointed out that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' penchant for retaining loyal generals beyond the usual retirement age was a big factor which led to his ouster in a military-backed "people power" revolt in 1986.

"If she extends (Cimatu's) term, that's another cause for grumbling. There should be no extension," Biazon said in a radio interview.

Extending Cimatu's term would bolster suspicion among young officers that "the patronage system is back," another former military officer turned senator said. Former Army Col. Gregorio Honasan, who led at least three of seven failed coup attempts in the 1980s against then-President Corason Aquino, is also a member of the Senate opposition.

In Baguio City, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said Cimatu's appointment was a "simple recognition of his role in the Balikatan 02-1 (military exercises)."

(President Macapagal-Arroyo) had chosen Cimatu because she was satisfied particularly with (his) performance in Balikatan," said Ocampo, who was guest speaker during a national conference on mining in Baguio City. Bayan Muna and other militant groups have been opposing the Balikatan exer-

cises and the presence of American troops in the country.

Popular choice

The President said she had long regarded Cimatu, a veteran combat commander, as "chief of staff material."

"Unfortunately, he will retire in a few months," she said of the former 4th Infantry Division commander who captured Camp Bushra and Abubakar, the biggest camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

She said that Cimatu was the "most popular choice" among officers when she was deciding last year who to name as Army commanding general.

"Because of seniority and (because) there were two candidates from Class 1969," she selected now retired Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos. (The other member of Class 1969 in the running was Camiling.)

"I think it was injustice in a way that I did not make him (Cimatu) Army chief then," the President said. "So it's but proper that he now becomes AFP chief of staff even for a brief period."

Garcia, his "mistah," said Cimatu would make a "good chief of staff." Cimatu is "very well grounded in operations," he added. "He's one of us, one who really stayed long in the field."

Cimatu, he added, is a "very deliberate man as far as decision-making is concerned." He said extending Cimatu's term beyond July would allow him to "make some adjustments in the system of the AFP and to make (an) impact on the organization."

He noted that the terms of many AFP chiefs of staff had been extended, citing as an example the late Gen. Arturo Enrile.

In Basilan, Cimatu said what mattered was not the length of tenure but "the quality and the output you do."

To his critics, he said he believed in the professionalism of AFP officers "and I would say that all these things that happened in the past week, or months, to me it's already water under the bridge."

When he is formally installed as new AFP chief of staff, Cimatu said he would attend to the welfare of the lowly paid soldiers, and improve the fighting capabilities of the troops.

"Once the soldiers are fully developed, they will bring success and victory to the AFP," he said. **With reports from Cynthia Balana, Juliet Javellana, Martin Marfil, Villamor Visaya Jr., Desiree Calura and Vincent Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AP; Reuters**

Peso rises to 49.78 against the US dollar

From page A1

49.775 from 50.10 on Friday.

"It's a sign of improving confidence. It's a sign that the central bank allows market forces to dictate the rates," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso's rise so far seemed to be market-driven.

"As I said, it (the peso) is competitive, moving in tandem with other currencies," he said.

Buenaventura said the strengthening of regional currencies, the expected recovery of exports, remittances from overseas Filipino workers and a tame inflation rate encouraged "a positive view for the peso."

He hinted, however, that the central bank would like the local currency to trade within the 49 to 50 band, as any further strengthening could hurt exports.

Persons familiar with the matter said exporters were already asking the central bank to temper the peso's appreciation.

"If we can keep it (the peso) within 49 to 50, it will be good enough already. I think it might go back to 50 eventually," Buenaventura said.

Dealers said they expected the peso to trade within the 49.60 to 49.90 range today.

"The market is still expecting more dollar supply from inflows from remittances and exporters. I think banks are keeping short dollar positions," a dealer with a local bank said.

\$17.3-B reserve

Buenaventura said the country's gross international reserves stood at a healthy \$17.3 billion last month, slightly lower than the all-time high of \$17.36 billion hit in March this year.

"There are very minimal repayments, but we will keep our GIR target at \$14 billion to \$15 billion," he said.

Another dealer said a government report showing annual inflation for April at 3.6 percent also boosted sentiment in the market, although it was largely expected. (See story on Page B1.)

The inflation rate was the same as in March. The government is

targeting inflation average of 5-6 percent for the full year.

Most banks believe the central bank would not raise interest rates given the benign inflation trend.

An economist from Standard Chartered Bank said the peso could hit 46.50 to a dollar in the next three months, but Buenaventura said this level was too optimistic.

Traders suggested that the central bank had been applying the brakes on the peso's recovery by buying dollars from the market.

A trader from a foreign bank disclosed that the BSP bought as much as \$20 million from the spot market yesterday to temper the peso's momentum.

Intervention

"Without the BSP's intervention, the peso's appreciation would have been greater," he said.

Buenaventura stressed that the central bank would ensure that the peso's recovery would be in line with other currencies in the region to protect the country's exporters.

"We are watchful of an undue appreciation, and we would ensure that there would be no volatile movements. We don't want those getting unduly short on the dollars," he said.

Camacho, the finance secretary, said the peso's recovery should trim the country's external debts.

He said more dollars were coming into the country either in the form of portfolio investments or remittance from overseas workers.

"I think the recovery of the peso is sustainable if we can maintain the conducive economic environment," he said.

Buenaventura have said repeatedly that he prefers a stable—not necessarily a stronger—local currency.

"The current level of the peso is good enough because we have to make our exports competitive as well as our domestic economy. A very strong currency would attract other countries to export to the Philippines, and our exports would not be as competitive," he said earlier.

The government expects export receipts to grow by one to 1.5 percent from a contraction of almost 16 percent last year. **With a report from AFP**

How Filipino priests are shielded from scandal

From page A1

come out in the open to complain about the alleged sexual misconduct of local priests.

So serious had the scandal become in the US that Pope John Paul II called all the American cardinals for a three-day meeting in the Vatican to tackle the issue.

The Pope made it clear that pedophilia was a criminal act and at the same time a sin against God.

Some priests, the *Inquirer* source said, have petitioned the Church hierarchy to look into the reportedly growing number of priests "attempting marriage" or getting women pregnant.

"You see, unlike in the US, our problem here is more about priests who enter into sexual relationships with women as consenting adults," said the *Inquirer* source, the priest, who wants to keep a "low profile."

Almost serious problem

But Fr. Robert Reyes—also known as the "running priest"—did not mince words. He admitted that the local Church has an "almost serious (*medyo malala*)" problem with priests breaking their vows of celibacy.

Instead of being embarrassed, Reyes considers the public disclosures of sexual scandals involving priests a blessing and a warning for erring Church leaders to "shape up."

"I welcome it as a grace," he

said, adding that since the pedophilia issue erupted, he had people going to him in his parish at the University of the Philippines, claiming they were victimized by priests.

Reyes advised them to bring the matter to the priests' superiors or their bishops.

Earlier, Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), admitted that the pedophilia issue has emboldened people to come forward and make public the secrets of priests who marry or live in with women.

Coronel assured the CBCP is now working on a protocol to address the continuing problem.

But Reyes asked the Church hierarchy to conduct a serious investigation of the problem and include in the protocol measures that would encourage victims to reveal all.

Unless this is done, he said the CBCP would only be applying a "cosmetic" solution to the problem.

"Worse, the protocol may only end up giving protection and shielding the erring priests," he said.

According to him, the problem is not new, considering that Spanish friars had had their share of sexual scandals, which national hero Jose Rizal projected in the character of "Father Damaso" in his novel "Noli Me Tangere."

From page A1

nickname in his book "Gallantry in Mindanao." During the campaign, Cimatu's troops gobbled up MILF camps, including the two biggest, Camp Bushra and Camp Abubakar.

"(We are) surely happy to have General Pacman rise to the top (AFP) leadership," Garcia said.

Appointed in the wake of controversy, Cimatu appears headed for an exciting stint as the country's 29th AFP chief of staff since 1948.

Lady Luck

According to relatives and friends, luck has been with Cimatu since his early days as a soldier.

Then Cadet First Class Cimatu was aboard a PMA bus on his way to the academy's ring hop ceremony one February night in 1970 when the bus suddenly stopped at the Fil-Am cemetery on Loakan Road in Baguio City.

Everybody in the bus was silent, the story went, until Cimatu exclaimed from the back, "At last, I saw the Lady of Loakan."

The "white lady" is an urban legend among PMAers; to see the apparition is a sign of incredible luck. "He had a spectacular career," said retired Air Force Capt. Bayani Flores, an uncle and a former military and commercial helicopter pilot. "Who would have thought that a son of public schoolteachers would end up as AFP chief of staff?"

Cimatu was born in Bangui,

Ilocos Norte, a coastal town at the northernmost tip of Luzon, the second of three sons of Fidel Cimatu Sr. and Clara Agullana, both teachers at Bangui Elementary School. All three sons graduated from the PMA.

The eldest, Dante, Class 1968, was the Philippine Constabulary director of Bataan in 1978 when he was killed when his jeep fell off a destroyed bridge. Youngest brother Fidel Jr., Class 1977, is now Ilocos Sur police director.

Their mother Clara died of cancer in 1996 while their father Fidel Sr. recently suffered a stroke.

The incoming four-star general studied in Bangui Elementary School and Bangui National High School. He was a sophomore taking up pre-engineering courses at the National University when he entered the PMA.

Fidel Jr. described his elder brother as "kind and thoughtful." "He was like a teacher. He is a strict disciplinarian. He is a professional soldier even among us," he said.

"Manong is also very religious and never failed to go to Mass every Sunday," Fidel Jr. said.

Cimatu's mistah in PMA Magiting Class 1970 include military and police generals Romeo Acop, Edgardo Calvo, Hermogenes Ebdane, Rufo de Veyra, Rodolfo Garcia, Guillermo Parayno and the cashiered Col. Irwin Ver, son of the late Gen. Fabian Ver, AFP chief of

staff under President Ferdinand Marcos.

Cimatu was a good friend of Irwin Ver, the class baron and valedictorian who also hailed from Ilocos Norte. He even served as one of the pallbearers during General Ver's burial in 1998.

Up the ranks

Three years after graduation, Cimatu was sent to Mindanao. His first assignment in 1973 was to find a young elusive Muslim activist and separatist named Nur Misuari.

That same year, he married an Antigueña named Fe Aguillon. They now have a son, Dennis, who is a senior architecture student at the University of Santo Tomas.

In 1978, Cimatu topped the Infantry Advanced Course at Fort Bonifacio, the Army's headquarters. His general weighted average remains the record for the course.

From 1985 to 1986, Cimatu studied for the Command General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth in the United States, and was named best foreign student.

He returned as instructor for the National Defense College before becoming the comptroller of the Army.

As a staff officer at the height of the "heartland or constriction" debate over strategy against the then-expanding communist New People's Army, Cimatu was credited with the drafting of the anti-

insurgency campaign plan "Oplan Lambat-Bitag," which is generally acknowledged as leading to the communist decline.

In the 1990s, Cimatu was assigned to the comptrollership where, according to briefs distributed to reporters yesterday, he "was able to channel more funds to the frontline units."

From there, he was given command of the 602nd Brigade in Mawab, Davao del Norte and Carmen, Cotabato and then of the 601st Brigade of the 6th Infantry Division.

During his stint as 601st Brigade commander, he led the rescue operation of four hostages, including a Japanese national, kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf.

He was given his first star after that incident.

From there, he went on to become deputy chief of staff for comptrollership. In that post, Cimatu volunteered to head the first Philippine peacekeeping contingent to East Timor.

After that campaign, he was promoted and became AFP deputy chief of staff. When the Abu Sayyaf struck again and took hostages from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, he was named chief of Southcom, the country's largest area command, responsible for about 40 percent of the 130,000-strong AFP. (Ed's Note: Frank Cimatu is a relative of the incoming AFP chief of staff.)

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2002

Buhain to Roco: P30-M check OK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco decided yesterday to reset the Palarong Pambansa in Naga City to January next year, citing the delay in the release of the budget promised by the Philippine Sports Commission.

But PSC chair Eric Buhain immediately asked for reconsideration, saying the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation released the P30 million check yesterday.

"In fact, I have the check in my hand right now," Buhain told the INQUIRER. "I have already faxed to Secretary Roco the copy of the check and I will send out the money to the different regional directors bank to bank, hoping that they change their minds."

In a letter to Buhain, Roco said the management committee of the Department of Education composed of regional directors who will help run the Palaro voted to postpone the Games originally scheduled for June 1-7 due to lack of money.

The regional directors needed the funds to support the training of the athletes, uniforms and transportation. The total budget appropriated for the Palaro is P46 million.

Naga hosts Milo Jr Tennis May 10-12

AFTER the successful completion of its fifth leg in Butuan City, the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop moves to Naga City for its sixth leg on May 10-12.

Now on its 12th straight year, the Milo Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has helped a lot of youth from different parts of the country in developing their skills in tennis. The program is the country's only mass-based, year-round, professionally administered program that promotes tennis to the youth.

Highlighting the program are the Junior Tennis Cup and the Regional Workshop.

The Junior Tennis Cup is an age-group tournament held over three days.

The standard categories for players are 18 and under, 16 and under, 14 and under, 12 and under, and 10 under. The tournaments are sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association (Phlita), which gives points to the participants to establish their national ranking. This system, in turn, determines the country's representatives for junior international competitions.

The Regional Workshop is a beginner's clinic that teaches basic tennis skills to all interested youth from the age of five upwards.

The Milo Regional Trial Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has 15 legs this year, culminating with the year-end age group tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center on Dec. 26-30.

Roco rocks

SECRETARY Roco should reconsider his decision postponing the Palarong Pambansa from June to January next year. Roco would not want to be branded a villain since a postponement would mean derailing the nation's sports program. Should he not budge, Roco getting nailed at by athletes won't be far-fetched.

Roco's move was triggered by budgetary constraints.

But yesterday, the issue of the Palaro budget was solved as Pagcor sent the P30-M check to Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission. A photocopy of the check was faxed to me yesterday afternoon.

All's well that ends well, Mr. Secretary?

Eddie Paguia of Tambo, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City wrote to say he wants me to give him the address of Batchoy Henares, the breeder of African-Tropical worm variety for vermiculture.

I do not exactly know his address, sir. But I'll do what I can do. I'll try to get in touch with people I know who can possibly relay to me Batchoy's address.

Thank you for your letter, anyways.

I love ensaimada as much as I love papaitan. Ensaimada goes well with coffee in the morning. Papaitan helps me kill hangover the night before.

Now this: I once had this ensaimada in General Santos City. That was years ago—five years to be exact. Really good. Tomorrow, this same ensaimada enters Manila as its maker, Rolee Bakeshop, opens a branch on Banahaw Street in Cubao (in front of Megamall Mulach Ensaimada) at 10 a.m.

See you there, fellas.

My family condoles with fellow sports journalist Beth Celis, actress Dexter Doria and Romualdo Taccad Jr. They lost their mother, Lilia Franco Taccad, yesterday. The body lies at the Phil-Am Homes Chapels in West Avenue, Quezon City.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

SHAQ RETURNS

Lakers, Nets, Pistons win openers

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal scored 13 of his 23 points after returning from an injury early in the fourth quarter and had 17 rebounds as the two-time defending NBA champion Lakers continued their mastery over the Spurs, 86-80, to open their Western Conference semifinal series.

O'Neal missed nearly 10 minutes after sustaining a cut on his right index finger early in the third quarter which required three stitches to close. It was a tough day for O'Neal, who needed four stitches to close a cut above his left wrist suffered in

a household accident earlier in the day.

When he returned with 10:50 to play, the Spurs led 64-61. Just as O'Neal came back, Kobe Bryant left after bruising his right knee in a collision with San Antonio's Bruce Bowen. Bryant, who scored 20 points, returned with 4:36 left, just as O'Neal made two free throws to snap a 71-all tie and put the Lakers ahead for good.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 26 points and 21 rebounds despite missing his first 10 shots.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd hit a go-ahead jumper and scored six of the Nets' final eight points to lead New

Jersey to a 99-93 victory over the undermanned Charlotte Hornets in the opening game of the Eastern Conference semifinal series on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Kidd finished with 21 points in leading seven Nets players in double figures.

Davis had 23 points to lead the Hornets, but he wasn't a factor in the final minutes with the game on the line. Elden Campbell had 22 points for Charlotte, which played a great game despite not having Jamal Mashburn and Jamaal Magliore (suspension).

Game 2 is on Tuesday night.

Campbell tied the game at 91, hitting

one of two frees with 3:04 to play.

After that, it was all Kidd.

In Auburn Hill, Michigan, Cliff Robinson scored 30 and Jerry Stackhouse 26 as the Detroit Pistons beat the Boston Celtics, 96-84, to win Game 1 in the best-of-seven second-round series.

The Pistons, who were 11-0 during the season when both Robinson and Stackhouse scored at least 20, set a team playoff record with 12 3-pointers on 25 attempts.

Michael Curry scored a career playoff-high 15. He made just seven 3-pointers during the regular season, but made three against the Celtics on Sunday. AP

Shark rips Ana anew

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
1:45 p.m.—Shark Energy Drink vs RP Burlington
4 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña Jewels
6 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation vs ICTSI-La Salle

By Dennis U. Erosa

SHARK Energy Drink continued its mastery over Ana Freezers, biting its way to an 81-76 victory for its fourth straight win yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Slam-dunking Clarence Cole, newly acquired Mike Bravo and veterans Rolly Basilides, Rysal Castro and Warren Ybanez conspired as the Energy Drink Kings kept the Freezer Kings at bay in the fourth quarter.

Shark started the conference with four straight losses before becoming the league's hottest team at the moment with a 4-4 mark.

Ana, which lost by a mile to Shark in the first round, 86-65, fell to 5-4 as the battle for five semifinal slots heats up.

In the second game, John-O clipped Kutitap, 79-73, also for its fifth win in nine games.

Trailing most of the way, Ana made its move in the fourth quarter only to fall short as Cole and company rose to the challenge. The 6-foot-4 Cole, who finished with 19 points, padded Shark's lead to 64-52 with a tomahawk slam. Ybanez, who played despite a hurting shoulder, scored eight of his 10 points as the Energy Drink Kings posted their biggest lead at 74-59, 3:57 remaining.

SCORES:
SHARK 81—Cole 19, Bravo 14, Castro 14, Ybanez 10, Basilides 8, Sotto 7, Junio 6, Caceres 4, Ortega 0, Vergara 0.

ANA 76—Pascual 14, Laygo 13, Tubid 8, Artadi 8, R. Mendoza 6, Mendoza 6, Mamaclay 6, De Guzman 5, Oreta 4, Chaneco 3, Gumatay 2, Giron 1. Quarters: 14-19, 36-32, 56-46, 81-76.

UST Tigers grab 'B' lead

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas' Tigers subdued the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers, 87-79, Sunday to grab the Group B senior lead in the 8th Fr. Martin Cup basketball tournament at the UE gym.

It was the fourth straight win for the Tigers, who whipped the San Beda Lions, 78-67, earlier in the week.

Defending champion Far Eastern University and College of St. Benilde hurdled Ateneo B in separate matches to share second place on 3-0 cards in Group B of the series supported by Pagcor.

The Tamaraws triumphed, 69-63, while St. Benilde pulled through, 79-73.

In other senior matches, San Beda B nipped Ateneo-A, 68-67; San Beda A toppled JRU, 65-77; UP tripped Mapua, 67-57; JRU crushed Arellano University, 102-88; Ateneo A downed Mapua, 70-67; San Sebastian nosed out FEU B, 83-81; PCU routed TIP, 94-58; and NU outstaided UK, 67-62.

Spring Cooking defeats Bahrain

KUALA LUMPUR—High-leaping Jeremy Robinson exploded with 32 points to lift the Philippines' Spring Cooking Oil to a 95-75 victory over Bahrain's Al Manama Sunday at the end of the ABC Champions' Cup basketball tournament here.

"It was a good outing for us," said coach Tito Palma after Spring's lopsided triumph which gave the Filipinos seventh place in the prestigious Asian cagefest.

Co-owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Herbert de Jesus, Spring's finish bettered the eighth-place showing of two RP teams, Beeper 150 and Pasig Pirates, in the 1998 and 1999 championships.

SPRING 95—Robinson 32, Parks 26, Ricalfente 17, Co 7, Reyes 6, Buendia 3, De Castro 2, Garcia 2, Javier 0, Luna 0, Torres 0, Solis 0

BAHRAIN 75—R. Smith 22, Mahmood 12, Nadaf 12, Yaqoob 11, A. Jackson 9. Quarterscores: 17-22, 43-41, 68-58, 95-75

Korean breaks PGA record

NEW ORLEANS—K.J. Choi became the first South Korean winner in PGA Tour history, closing with a 5-under 67 on Sunday for a four-stroke victory in the Compaq Classic. Choi earned the \$810,000 winner's check with a 17-under 271 total, holding off a number of challengers in ideal scoring condition on the English Turn course. Geoff Ogilvy and Dudley Hart came the closest, finishing with 68s to tie for second at 14-under 275. AP



LOS Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (right) drives to the basket against San Antonio Spurs' Malik Rose during Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinals yesterday in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 86-80. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Ucap 7-Cocker tonight draws big field

SPORTSMAN Pepito Ngo of the famous Fatman entry returns today to the national cockfighting scene by fielding three entries in the "10th Ucap Alkalde AT Dominator Joap 7-Cock Derby" at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Today's hosts are Mayor Gerry "Boy" Espina of Naval, Biliran Province, Alan Tan, Patrick Puno, Larry Amante, John Capinpin and Madlambayan Brothers. Aside from Ngo, other guest participants are Jimmy Yaokasin of Tacloban, Mayor Vic Amante of San Pablo City, Rudy Jingco and Danny Pineda of Pampanga. Top contenders in the Ucap Cocker of the Year 2002 race are set to challenge them. They are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, W. Salud, engineer Sonny Lagon, Mayor Joel Brillantes, Vic Yu, Danding Coljuanco, Raymond Velayo, Biboy Enriquez, Mauro Prieto, Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Boy de Roca.

Deuel stuns Reyes, wins Japan billiards

RISEING American pool star Cory Deuel defeated his idol and "maestro" Efren "Bata" Reyes in the finals of the IBC Nanki Classic 9-ball championship to win the first leg of the International Billiard Council (IBC) World Tour in Osaka, Japan, on Saturday. It was a heart-breaking loss for Reyes and sweet victory for 23-year old Deuel who, in his younger days, played money games with Reyes whenever the latter was in the United States, even if he knew he was likely to lose, just to learn some strokes from "The Magician" from the Philippines.

Bumgarner captures KT junior class

MICHELLE Bumgarner of M&M's Kart Racing-Castrol-Benetton-Fullerton prevailed recently in the KT junior class to lead all winners in the third round of the nine-leg 2002 Shell Super Kart championships at the Carmona Circuit. Her younger brother and teammate, Mark, took second in the same category and Futura Racing-Cebu's Matteo Guidicelli third. Guidicelli won Cadet 85, while the younger Bumgarner and Marlou Stockinger wound up second and third, respectively. Meanwhile, Lee Bumgarner won the Rotax Maxi-125 class by edging Kart 1 Racing Team's Philip Alvendia. The top two winners based on their accumulated points at the end of the season will represent the Philippines in the Rotax World Kart Championships in South Africa next January.

Head-Penn netfest May 13-19

THE NEW Rizal Sports Club, in cooperation with Dynamic Sports Corporation and Chris Sports Plaza, will hold the Head-Penn Metro Age-Group tennis championships on May 13-19. Players may register with Jenny at the Rizal Sports Club (tel. 633-5942) and at the Phlita office (tel. 525-6434 and 523-6415). Deadline of entry is on May 10 at 5 p.m. Boys' and girls' 18-under singles and doubles, and 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under singles are the events on tap in the Phlita-sanctioned Group 1 event offering 200 points to the winners.



GRAN COPA DE MANILA

Manila Jockey Club President Alfonso Reyno Jr. (right) shakes hands with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza after they signed an agreement to stage the 23rd "Gran Copa de Manila" Racing Festival and the designation of the Home for the Angels Foundation, an orphanage supported by the City of Manila, as principal beneficiary of the event on June 24, "Araw ng Maynila," at San Lazaro. Witnessing the event are (from left) MJCI Director Martin Cepeda, Josefina Pia Sacro and Cory Arevalo.

Compton back, stars for LBC

GAME TOMORROW (Lipa Cultural Center)
6 p.m.—Cebu vs Batangas

LIPA CITY—Alex Compton returned and instantly made his presence felt as LBC Batangas posted a come-from-behind 89-86 victory over Osaka Pangasinan on Sunday in the MBA First Conference at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center here.

Fresh from a two-week visit in the United States, Compton conspired with Jeffrey Sanders and Eddie Laure to give the Blades their fourth win in seven outings that pushed them to second place in the Northern Conference.

The Waves, who led by as many as 22 points, 57-35, dropped to third with an even 4-4 card.

Compton, who attended to his ailing father, pumped in 11 points, including five straight freethrows off Waves rookie Julius David, in a 16-5 run that enabled the Blades to tie the count at 86 with 1 minute and 41 seconds to go.

Also shining in defense, Compton intercepted a pass by Chris Clay intended for Randy Alcantara and then set up Sanders for the marginal triple with time down to 18.5 seconds.

For their heroics, Compton and Sanders were jointly named the MBA Hardcourt Heroes for the week.

Olongapo dumped Pampanga, 106-89, in the opener.

SCORES:

BATANGAS 89—Laure 23, Compton 23, Sanders 22, Martin 9, Espinosa 4, Corbin 3, Rivera 2, Cuevas 2, De Castro 1, Ramirez 0, Mapalad 0.

PANGASINAN 86—Clay 34, Alcantara 13, Ferreria 13, Adducul 12, Banares 4, Castillo 3, Garcia 3, Lambert 2, Aquino 2, David 0, De Guia 0, Du 0. Quarters: 19-28, 45-57, 70-81, 89-86.

Mariano, Torre 4 others advance

Final standings:

Men's: Torre 10.5 points; Paragua, Roca, Mariano, Villamayor, Antonio, Garma 9.5; Gomez 8; Ranaola 7.5; Nadera, Bancod, Sanchez 7; Millagrosa 3.5; Merelos 3, Sumngat.

Women's: Mendoza 10 points; Lomibao 9; Cruz, Castellano, Mariano 8; Cua 7.5; Espallardo 7; Joya 6.5; Toledo 5.5; Castro 5; Torres, Abanes 4.5; Dela Cruz 4; Rivera 3.5.

INTERNATIONAL Master Nelson Mariano II finally saw a long-cherished dream fulfilled yesterday, as he joined the country's three grandmasters, a young International Master and a veteran campaigner to the 2002 World Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia.

To make it to the team, Mariano beat NM Elmer Sumngat at the close of the Grand Finals of the National Chess Championship at the 17th floor (Penthouse) of the All Asia Capital Center in Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The win gave Mariano, a Fort Bonifacio-based Armyman of the SSU unit, a total of 10 points, the same score posted by IM Mark Paragua, NM Petronio Roca and Grandmaster Bong Villamayor, who all settled for early draws.

With his total of 10 points and a superior tiebreak, Mariano climbed into second place behind GM Eugene Torre, who clinched the title as early as the 14th round yesterday with a victory over Sumngat.

Torre, as expected, settled with a regulation 15-move draw with fellow GM Joey Antonio.

The 38-year-old Antonio actually emerged tied with Villamayor and IM Chito Garma for fifth to seventh places, but the two GMs had the superior tiebreak, assuring the country of the participation of the country's top three players.

Macalino bros Coke first round winners

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Macalino brothers Daniel Luis and Pocholo won their first-round matches Sunday night in the first Coca-Cola National Juniors Tennis Championships at the International Sports and Tennis Center here.

Daniel Luis breezed past Marlo Manalo, 6-1, 6-0, to advance in the boys' 14-under finals against sixth seed Miguel Antonio Pantua, who drew first-round bye together with No. 1 Kyle Dandan and No. 2 Raymond Villarete.

Pocholo barged into the unisex 10-under second round after pulling off a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Victoria Magaway. Other winners were Jeremy Haro over Marco Verano, 6-0, 7-6 (3); Jia Marrell Elesis over Maika Jae Tanpoco, 6-2, 6-4; and Sally Mae Siso over Calvin Canlas, 6-1, 6-0.

Pava volleyball tilt slated

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Volleyball Association will stage the National Open Volleyball Championship for Men and Women on May 12-19 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Women's cagefest unfolds today

THE FIRST Women's National Basketball League kicks off with a three-game bill today in Naga City. Hosted by the Naga City Sports Council and the city government of Naga, the five-day, 15-game tournament will be ushered in by the 4:30 p.m. game between the Bicol Beauties-Bestank and the Zamboanga Flowers. Other games pit the Cebu Queens against the Pangasinan Summers-Simco Traders at 6 p.m. and the Davao Pearls against the Laguna Charmers-Jumbo Plastics at 7:30 p.m.

SMB, Purefoods gun for final slots

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)

6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola

GAME1

Purefoods d. Coca-Cola, 89-86
San Miguel d. Alaska, 72-68

GAME2

Purefoods d. Coca-Cola, 84-75
Alaska d. San Miguel, 67-63 OT

GAME3

Coca-Cola d. Purefoods, 77-72
San Miguel d. Alaska, 68-61

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer tries to nail a sixth straight Finals appearance while Purefoods hopes to finish off Coca-Cola tonight in the semifinals of

the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen regained the momentum after conquering the Alaska Aces, 68-61, last Sunday to post a 2-1 edge in their best-of-five semifinal series.

In contrast, Purefoods is in trouble of relinquishing its won-game advantage over Coca-Cola as the Tigers closed in at 2-1 following a 77-72 victory on the same night ace playmaker Johnny Abarrientos shone.

Abarrientos infused life on the Tigers with his pinpoint pass and crucial steals in the home stretch as they foiled the Hotdogs' from posting their first-ever best-of-five semifinal sweep since the rule began in the 1993 All-Filipino Cup.

The Tigers are now threatening to become

the third team in PBA history to return from a 0-2 deficit in a best-of-five series.

The legendary Crispa Redmanizers accomplished the feat in the 1975 third conference against Toyota. Fifteen years later, Purefoods replicated the trick against Alaska in the same conference.

But the Hotdogs wouldn't allow history to repeat itself as they vowed to avenge themselves and return to the Finals for the first time since the 2000 Governors Cup when they lost to San Miguel Beer in five games.

To do it, Derrick Brown, Kelvin Price, Kerby Raymundo, Rey Evangelista and Alvin Patrimonio must work doubly hard to contain Roselle Ellis and Ron Hale.

These guys must emulate the Beermen,

whose collective efforts have forced Ron Riley and James Head to crumble down the stretch in Game 3.

Besides from eyeing a sixth straight Finals stint, the Beermen are also a win away from seeing action in eight of the last nine championship confrontations in the last three years.

The Beermen are also looking for a league-best 17th franchise title.

So focused were the Beermen on defense that Lamont Strothers almost forgot to score as he finished with a career-low five points since he started donning the San Miguel jersey three years ago.

Good thing Mario Bennett, Dorian Peña and Boybits Victoria were there to take care of the Beermen's point production.



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■ Ingrate, Beltran says
of undercover cop /A18

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ On Target: Graft and
corruption at the DOTC
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BEFORE THE RAINS FALL

Women workers armed with makeshift tools remove trash from the creek along Santolan Road in Quezon City in anticipation of the rainy season. Creeks and 'esteros' choked with garbage are one of the biggest causes of flooding in many parts of Metro Manila.

JOAN BONDOC

'Burn!'

Manila dad
wants buntings
regulated

By Christian
V. Esguerra
and Philip Tubeza

A PASAY court yesterday ordered the destruction of 229 bags of shabu, most of which are kept in a National Bureau of Investigation laboratory in the city, after nearly P15 million worth of the prohibited substance was reported missing last month.

In a three-page resolution, Judge Cesar Ylagan of the Regional Trial Court Branch 231 also ordered the NBI to investigate and recover the missing eight kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu contained in five plastic bags, which were stored in the bureau's evidence laboratory in Pasay City.

Shabu and other illegal drugs are usually destroyed by incineration.

"The matter of the five missing plastic bags is hereby addressed to the concern of the director of the NBI for appropriate action," the judge

said in his resolution.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, who is now in the United States to meet with his counterpart in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, yesterday declined to confirm if more than eight kilos of shabu are indeed missing from the bureau's evidence vaults.

"We have yet to confirm if there was really such a loss," said Wycoco in a telephone interview.

But Rodolfo Toledana, a deputy of the Pasay Regional

Trial Court Sheriff's Office, discovered that 8.67 kilos of shabu in five plastic bags were missing at the NBI laboratory after he and members of the Dangerous Drugs Board conducted an inventory on April 18.

Toledana submitted his report to Judge Ylagan on May 2.

Wycoco said he has already formed a five-man committee under Deputy Director Samuel Ong to look into the alleged disappearance of the

BURN/A18

By Jerome Aning

THE HANGING of buntings during fiestas and other special occasions might soon be regulated in Manila. Councilor Marlon Lacson of the second district has proposed requiring a permit to hang buntings in public places.

Lacson said hanging buntings indiscriminately over roads, traffic islands, from electric posts, telephone poles and buildings pose danger to passing vehicles. Dusty and worn out buntings left unattended also "destroy the aesthetic appeal and beauty of the city," he said.

The hanging of rows of buntings during fiestas is a tradition in urban and rural communities in the country. Buntings are also used as a promotional medium for consumer products and are hung on walls of stores, supermarkets and even shopping malls. They are often made of plastic or paper.

MANILA DAD /A18

WAZZZZUP?
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We're seeing double.

We were delighted to receive the Reader's Digest SuperBrands Gold Award last year. And doubly delighted to receive it again this year. So to the readers who once again voted for us, we'd like to say from the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you. Thank you."

Pusong Pinoy



Ingrate, militants say of undercover cop

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN INGRATE.

This was how leaders of militant groups described SPO1 Jocelyn V. Carifio, who filed robbery, physical injury and direct assault charges yesterday against Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran and Bayan secretary general Teddy Casifio after he was caught under cover during the militants' Labor Day rally.

Beltran said he would not file countercharges but would seek instead a

full congressional investigation of Carifio's conduct during the rally.

"Walang utang na loob itong si Carifio (Carifio is an ingrate)," Casifio said. "He should have even thanked us since we saved him from people who wanted to beat him to a pulp. If I didn't step in to stop the mob, he might have suffered more than bruises."

Carifio filed the charges yesterday at the Manila Prosecutor's Office after the militants failed to return his missing gun and other valu-

ables.

But Casifio said it was possible that Carifio's fellow plainclothes policemen took his gun.

"As seen in the footages, there was a scramble for the gun," Casifio said. "Many of those who surrounded us were strangers. We suspect (that they) were plainclothes men as well."

"The gun is not with our marshals," he added. "Maybe his colleagues have sold it or kept and pinned the blame on us."

Beltran said Congress should investigate what happened on Labor Day, particularly reports that Carifio was trying to get near him when the policeman was caught.

"We have reason to believe that Carifio attempted to infiltrate our ranks, but for reasons still unclear up to now," Beltran said. "There were already hundreds of uniformed police officers guarding Mendiola and the surrounding areas. There shouldn't have been a need for the WPD or the PNP com-

mand to deploy undercover cops.

"That is, unless they (had) deviated intentions. Carifio was armed, and when he was accosted by the security marshals, he refused to come clean."

Beltran said he did not know what happened to Carifio's possessions that included the gun, since he was immediately taken to safety after the incident.

"The prevailing (assessment) of the situation was that Carifio was headed toward me, and he was a

stranger to the marshals, and he looked suspicious, so they immediately confronted him," Beltran said. "I would like to make it known that while I have no fear for myself, I am angered by the threat posed against the people who participated in the rallies."

He said the "possibilities" that Carifio intended to attack him or at the least cause distraction "that would have led to the unruly dispersal of the crowd" should be investigated.

Trucks allowed to use interchange under viaduct

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MUNTINLUPA City government, the Philippine National Construction Corp. and a national federation of truckers have agreed on a temporary solution to the problem posed by the Alabang viaduct.

In a public hearing on Friday, the local government said it would allow trucks weighing 20 tons and above to use the busy interchange located below the viaduct, pending the result of a structural test on the elevated structure on May 13.

An ordinance recently banned

trucks from using the viaduct since they contribute to the congestion in the area, which thousands of vehicles pass through coming from the south and going to Manila.

But members of the Confederation of Truckers' Associations in the Philippines denounced the ordi-

nance since it allowed them to use the viaduct only from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., according to a news release from Muntinlupa.

The heavy build-up of traffic at the Alabang interchange began in 1994 when the PNCC prohibited trucks weighing 20 tons and above

from using the viaduct, following complaints that the structure had shown cracks and had become shaky, according to Tez Valencia, Muntinlupa information officer.

Muntinlupa officials said the condition of the viaduct hardly improved. A Department of Public

Works and Highways report on Feb. 12, 2001 found evident signs of cracks on the structure.

Last month, the PNCC conducted a load test to determine the soundness of the viaduct. The result of the test will be released early next week.

Another youth killed in riot

By Philip Tubeza

AN 18-YEAR-OLD man was killed while three others were injured in another brawl involving street gangs in Tondo, Manila yesterday after midnight.

Jhun Jhun Esguerra, of Lico Street in Tondo, was stabbed dead in front of the Antonio Elementary School, said Detective William Gondranios of the Western Police District homicide section.

Injured were Jerwin Bascos, 19, Bon Torres, 18, and Virgilio Amante, Gondranios said.

At about 1:30 a.m. yesterday, Esguerra and his companions were walking on Lico Street when another group of teenagers approached them and provoked them into an argument, police said. Their argument soon turned into a full-blown brawl, Gondranios said.

At the height of the fight, some of the unidentified suspects pulled out knives and began to stab Esguerra and his companions. The suspects fled after the victims fell bleeding, police said.

Esguerra, Bascos and Torres were taken to the Jose Reyes Hospital and Amante to the Tondo General Hospital, police said.

Esguerra died from a stab wound in the back, Gondranios said.

Bascos, who was also stabbed in the back, is in critical condition. Amante, who was stabbed in the arm, and Torres, who sustained bruises, are out of danger, doctors said.

Initial police investigation showed that three days before the rumble, the same group beat up Esguerra on the same street.



SWIMMING WITH THE FISH

Trying to beat the heat, a boy jumps off a bridge as he and his friends whoop it up and swim in the river in the fishing town of Navotas in the northern part of Metro Manila.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Vendor ban in Las Piñas

TO EASE traffic and put order in sidewalks along the Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar and Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante ordered the full enforcement of City Ordinance No. 454 banning ambulant and illegal vendors along sidewalks, roads, streets, alleys and similar places.

Violators will be fined P200, according to a statement from the Las Piñas City Hall. Those who cannot afford to pay the fine will have to render community service for one day, according to Aguilar.

He said that to ensure the implementation of the ordinance, he directed Councilors Ruben Ramos and Henry Medina to organize Task Force Kaayusan.

Task Force Kaayusan will specifically operate along the Alabang-Zapote Road, particularly near Lozada market in Barangay Talon Uno.

Tourist robbed on boulevard

JAPANESE tourist Hiroki Kawasaki, 32, woke up to a nightmare Sunday morning.

Kawasaki fell asleep along Roxas Boulevard while taking pictures of Manila Bay on Sunday. When he woke up minutes later, his camera and more than P30,000 worth of valuables were already missing.

Kawasaki, billeted at the Ermita Tourist Inn in Ermita, Manila, was robbed at about 10 a.m., said SPO4 Cecilio Sacorum of the Western Police District General Assignments Section.

The Japanese said he lost a Louis Vuitton brown bag containing his Sony video camera, keys, a Louis Vuitton card, and \$300 and 10,000 yen in cash, according to Sacorum.

He said Kawasaki was taking pictures of the Manila Bay along the boulevard when he decided to rest. He sat down on the breakwater and drank some beer, SPO4 Sacorum said.

The tourist fell asleep for about 10 minutes and he did not notice that he was being robbed, the policeman said. **Philip C. Tubeza, Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

Manila dad . . .

From page A17

Lacson's proposal enjoins fiesta committees and other entities to first get a permit from the mayor before hanging bunting, but they must first secure an endorsement from the barangay chairs.

The applicant will also be held responsible for removing the bunting.

The business permit and the licensing office will determine the permit fee, according to the proposal. The applicant will also be required to make a cash deposit that will be reimbursed if the terms of the permit are followed.

'Burn!' . . .

From page A17

prohibited stuff. The committee is expected to finish its inquiry by the end of the week.

Wycoco said the committee is trying to determine if the alleged pilferage happened before or after the shabu was turned over to the NBI Forensic Chemistry Division.

"It's an honest to goodness investigation," Wycoco said. "Once we determine if there was negligence, we will file criminal or civil charges (against the erring officials)."

He said he formed the committee last week after he received a report from the DDB and the Sheriff's Office of the Pasay Regional Trial Court.

He also said in a radio interview yesterday morning that if the bags were really missing, then "insiders" must have taken the illegal drugs because these were kept in a secure location in the bureau's forensic chemistry division.

Wycoco said the plastic bags might have just been misplaced or mislabeled.

The missing shabu was part of an estimated 250 kilos of contraband seized from

a certain Sandra Lim at Somerset Mansions on Leveriza Street in Pasay City on Dec. 26, 2000.

Some of the prohibited substance is also being kept in the evidence room of Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 119.

The Pasay City Prosecutor's Office earlier asked the court to have the bags of illegal substance destroyed since they had been presented as evidence in the criminal case against Lim, and in a separate case at RTC Branch 119.

Before he granted the prosecutor's motion for destruction of the shabu, Judge

Ylagan ordered deputy sheriff Rodolfo Toledana to inspect and inventory the 234 bags of shabu.

It was during the inspection that Toledana discovered that eight kilos of shabu were missing.

The destruction will be witnessed by representatives of the justice department, Pasay city prosecutor's office, NBI, Philippine National Police Narcotics Group, DDB, a non-government organization, the sheriff of RTC 231, and lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, who is credited with the seizure of shabu.

Graft and corruption at the DOTC

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



EVERYBODY'S looking at the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as sources of graft and corruption.

But nobody seems to be looking at the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Two proposed DOTC projects bear watching because they could be sources of graft. One is the construction of railway Line 4 that would connect Quiapo, Manila to the Lower Batasan area in Quezon City. The other is the putting up of instrument landing systems (ILS) at the Davao City Airport to upgrade it to international standards.

The proposed Line 4 is dead in the water because it's not feasible. The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) will surely not approve it, according to some experts. Neither will it be approved by the government's Investment Coordinating Council that is chaired by the President. All big government projects have to have the approval of the ICC.

But middle-level executives at the DOTC insist in pushing through with the proposed Line 4 project that would compete with Line 2 which has been under construction since 1988. Line 2 would connect Katipunan in Cubao, Quezon City to Quiapo, Manila, via Aurora Boulevard.

Why do DOTC officials insist that Line 4 project is feasible even if then Transportation and Communications Secretary Vicente C. Rivera Jr. disapproved it on Oct. 29, 1999?

To answer that question, here's a

background. In 1994, a Frenchman, Herve Laumond, who is married to a Filipina, introduced to the DOTC a French engineering company, Sofretu, to oversee the performance of Line 3 contractors. At that time, Line 3, which connects Baclaran, Paranaque to North Avenue in Quezon City via Edsa, was still under construction.

Sofretu, in turn, brought a French civil works contractor, Bouygues, and jointly they prepared an unsolicited proposal for Line 4. The proposal was made on Dec. 12, 1994.

In 1995, with the strong support of Lito Osmeña and then Transportation Secretary Jesus Garcia, Sofretu—it is said to have obtained a grossly overpriced contract of US\$20 million to oversee the implementation of Line 3. But there was really no need for it, according to my sources at the DOTC, as the Line 3 contractor was measuring up to the job.

Since there was nothing else to do but watch over the Line 3 construction, the French engineers started to work on the Line 4 design concept. The effort was financed through invoices covering supposed supervisory works on Line 3.

In other words, the effort on Line 4 was financed by the DOTC. And, of course, paid for by the taxpayers!

And now, the French contractors that conceptualized Line 4 have been given the job of constructing it.

And what do you know? Bouygues, the construction firm, was given the equity of \$50 million

for a project estimated to cost \$900 million.

Under the law, the project proponent shoulders 25 percent of the cost. Since the estimated cost is \$900 million, the French company's equity should be \$225 million.

My sources say that the estimated \$900 million project cost for Line 4 is overpriced by \$400 million. The real cost should be \$500 million, the sources say.

Why is Line 4 not feasible?

First, because it was aimed at transporting students to the University Belt in Manila from the densely populated Novaliches area in Quezon City and Caloocan City. However, all the universities at the University Belt are in the process of moving out of Manila.

Line 2, which would connect Cubao to Quiapo via Aurora Boulevard, was not yet under construction when Line 4 was thought up by the French DOTC consultants.

The French proposal does not start from Novaliches or Fairview, as envisioned by the DOTC planning committee, but from Lower Batasan. The French proposal ends at the Old Billibid Area and not at the University Belt.

As stated earlier, Line 4 would compete with Line 2 which is a government project. More than \$1 billion has been spent on the Line 2 project which is expected to be completed not later than 2005.

Also, the right-of-way on España and Quezon Avenues is only 17 meters wide. The Light Railway Train stations will require 10 meters. This would create big traffic jams on those major streets if LRT stations were to be put up in those streets.

The delay in the construction of the instrument landing systems (ILS) at the Davao City Airport has pictured the DOTC as an agency that awards contracts on a wishy-washy, under-the-table manner.

The Airport Systems International Inc. (ASII) of Kansas, USA, submitted the lowest bid among three foreign companies. ASII was hired in the past by the DOTC to put up similar ILS in other airports in the country.

Even after winning the award to put up the ILS at the Davao Airport, the DOTC's Air Transport Office (ATO) continues to delay the project. It has asked for a re-bidding so that other bidders can participate.

ATO also allegedly wants to rewrite the bidding rules to favor another bidder, the Navia Aviation of Oslo, Norway, one of two firms that lost to ASII.

Gusto lang ng ATO ng dili-hensiya!

No less than the US Embassy's deputy chief of mission, Robert W. Flitts, has written to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to protest the delay in the awarding of the project to ASII.

Listen to what Flitts told Alvarez:

"I hope that your department can come to a resolution for this issue soon. We at the US Embassy are doing our best to assist the Arroyo Administration in attracting American investors to the Philippines. However, the time and cost of competing for tenders such as the Davao Airport Project may discourage potential American companies from coming to the Philippines."

Wait till President Macapagal-Arroyo reads this!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

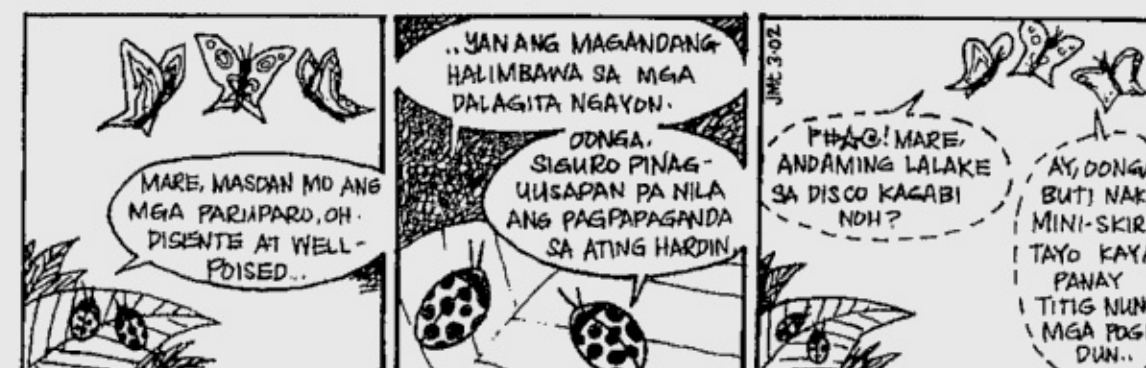


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren McGavin, Anne Baxter, Max Rafferty
Happy Birthday: You will have great insight this year into what will help your loved ones. You will have an unreal view of your abilities. You will be too generous with your friends and family and as a result the very same people will take advantage of you. Your numbers are 9, 12, 23, 27, 32, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You are in the mood for love and romance. Your quick wit and charm will attract new romantic partners if you are single but if you are in a relationship, make special plans for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share your thoughts and philosophies with those from different backgrounds or those having unusual beliefs. Your involvement in an organization will enhance romance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A partnership may not turn out to be exactly as you had hoped. Consider what it is you expect to get out of the connection and don't be afraid to discuss your concerns. Use discrimination this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful what you divulge at work or even to your friends and family. Secret enemies will try to ruin your reputation. Limitations are likely if you have taken on too much.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't blow situations out of proportion regarding financial, legal or health issues. Someone you feel responsible for may have some words of wisdom to share.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The changes going on around you are not as you anticipate. Be patient and you will realize that you are sitting in a pretty good position. Look for the positive in anything you face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must get out in order to meet new people or develop relationships. Travel or attending lectures should be on your agenda today. You will attract attention if you speak your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can accomplish a great deal if you work out of your home today. The more you do to enhance your home or your own appearance the better. You can be successful as long as you don't argue with family or friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Plan a trip or volunteer your services to an organization that you believe in. You will receive some perks that will help you get what you want in other areas of your life.

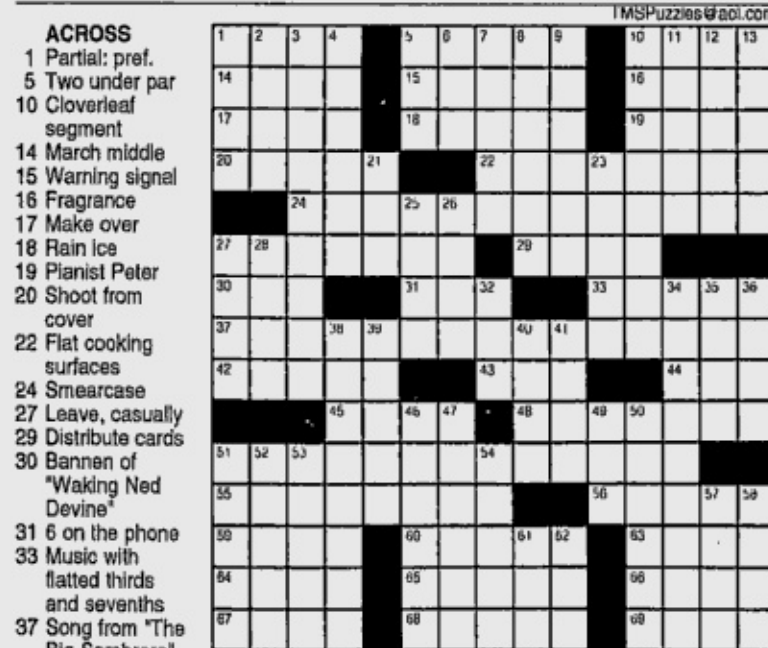
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Play it smart and secretive today. Don't let anyone know your intentions. The element of surprise will make what you are trying to accomplish that much more effective. Travel or educational pursuits will pay off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Try to remain calm even if someone in your family is pushing you to do something you don't want to do. You may have difficulties with an in-law or friend you have confided in. Concentrate on making changes at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself today. Someone is likely to take you the wrong way. Spending impulsively will get you into financial difficulty.

Birthday Baby: You will love sports and will be a competitive player throughout your life. You will be charming and very popular with your peers, friendly and always be willing to help others.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
 Highwood, IL

5/7/02

Monday's Puzzle Solved



DOWN
 1 Knightly titles
 2 Adam's garden
 3 Having curative properties
 4 Oval
 5 CBS affiliate?
 6 Feel poorly
 7 Shorthand
 8 Looked lasciviously
 9 Lure
 10 Rounded object
 11 Fred Astaire's sister
 12 Folkways
 13 Ordinary speech
 21 Schedule abbr.
 23 Abu __, UAE
 25 Burial place
 26 Top-notch
 27 Circuit-board acronym
 28 Last blow in the ring
 32 Ah, I see!
 34 Single-wheel vehicles
 35 Ancient Icelandic saga
 36 Be mouthy
 38 With courage
 39 Arboreal ape, for short
 40 Oriental nursemaid

41 NASCAR driver
 46 Feudal lords
 47 Totally captivated
 49 Hrs. in Seattle
 50 With hands on hips
 51 Coconut flesh
 52 Satellite of Uranus
 53 Trite
 54 10th U.S. President
 57 Slay
 58 Missile shelter
 61 Poetic meadow
 62 Cornucopia

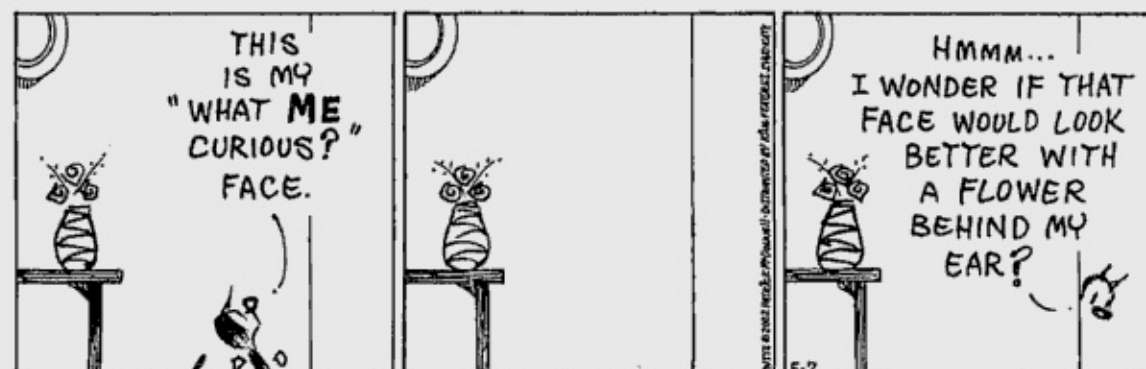
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

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CHICHOY CHOKOY

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- 8 SPIDERMAN

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- 3 SPIDERMAN
- 4 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
- 5 SPIDERMAN
- 6 VIDEOKE KING
- 7 SPIDERMAN
- 8 SCORPION KING
- 9 SPIDERMAN
- 10 I AM SAM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

- 1 SCORPION KING
- 2 BLADE 2
- 3 I AM SAM
- 4 SPIDERMAN
- 5 SPIDERMAN
- 6 VIDEOKE KING
- 7 SPIDERMAN
- 8 SPIDERMAN
- 9 VIDEOKE KING
- 10 BUKANG BIBIG
- 11 DEVIL'S MASK
- 12 RETURN TO NEVERLAND

SM CITY MANILA

- 1 SCORPION KING
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 VIDEOKE KING
- 4 SPIDERMAN
- 5 I AM SAM
- 6 SPIDERMAN
- 7 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
- 8 BUKANG BIBIG
- 9 SPIDERMAN
- 10 SPIDERMAN
- 11 SHOWTIME
- 12 VIDEOKE KING

SM MEGAMALL

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 I AM SAM
- 3 BLADE 2
- 4 SPIDERMAN
- 5 MONTE CRISTO
- 6 SCORPION KING
- 7 SHOWTIME
- 8 VIDEOKE KING
- 9 SPIDERMAN
- 10 SPIDERMAN
- 11 VIDEOKE KING
- 12 BUKANG BIBIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 I AM SAM
- 4 VIDEOKE KING
- 5 VIDEOKE KING
- 6 SPIDERMAN
- 7 SCORPION KING
- 8 SPIDERMAN
- 9 CLOSED
- 10 CLOSED
- 11 CLOSED
- 12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL

- 1 VIDEOKE KING
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 SPIDERMAN
- 4 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
- 5 BUKANG BIBIG
- 6 I AM SAM
- 7 VIDEOKE KING
- 8 SPIDERMAN
- 9 SCORPION KING
- 10 SPIDERMAN

SM CITY CEBU

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 BLADE 2
- 4 SCORPION KING
- 5 HART'S WAR
- 6 TIME MACHINE
- 7 VIDEOKE KING
- 8 SPIDERMAN

SM CITY ILOILO

- 1 HART'S WAR
- 2 CLOSED
- 3 SPIDERMAN
- 4 BLADE 2
- 5 VIDEOKE KING
- 6 SPIDERMAN
- 7 CLOSED
- 8 SCORPION KING

SM CITY PAMPANGA

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 SCORPION KING
- 4 DEEP END
- 5 SNOW DOGS
- 6 VIDEOKE KING

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

- 1 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 VIDEOKE KING
- 4 SPIDERMAN

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE

- 1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- 2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- 3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 BUKANG BIBIG
- 4 VIDEOKE KING

SM CITY DAVAO

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 SCORPION KING
- 3 VIDEOKE KING
- 4 SPIDERMAN
- 5 SPIDERMAN
- 6 TIME MACHINE

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- 2 4 NEW
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- 4

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2 SPIDERMAN	2 SPIDERMAN	5 SPIDERMAN	2 SPIDERMAN
3 SPIDERMAN	3 SPIDERMAN	6 SPIDERMAN	3 SPIDERMAN
4 SPIDERMAN	3 SPIDERMAN 12:30 pm/ 3:00/ 5:30/ 8:00/ 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	7 I AM SAM	4 SPIDERMAN
		4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1	5 SPIDERMAN

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- 5 SPIDERMAN
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- 9

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When newscasters are not before the cameras

From page A22

soft-hearted Korina truly is. I should know. We had a minor misunderstanding before but she was open enough to hear me out and we resolved the matter.

Korina is very much into gem stones. Last Christmas, she gave me and other colleagues an assortment of colored stones placed in a glass basket with a corresponding guide as to what each stone represents (pink for love, yellow-brown for money, etc).

Her latest find is a stone that is "good for financial stability," she said. "Nothing to lose if you just put it in your wallet."

While we were engrossed in our talk, Aljo entered the studio and Korina introduced him to me. In a playful mood she said "Aljo, this is my friend Dolly. She's still single."

Aljo struck me as a mild-mannered, self-effacing guy. It seems that his newfound fame has not changed the *probinsyano* in him a bit. Let's see if he stays that way.

When "TV Patrol" started to air that night, I smiled as I watched Korina, Aljo and Henry do what they do best. If only all the viewers could also get a glimpse of what they are like in between the headlines.

Miss Philippines

MY favorite laughing buddy **Raul Teehankee** invited me to the press presentation of the Miss Philippines 2002 candidates at the Hotel Intercontinental. It was a joy to hook up with old friend Lorraine Schuck, who heads Carousel Productions that is behind the pageant, and meet a new friend, **Margarita Locsin**, Rep. **Teddyboy Locsin's** charming daughter, during the launch.

The 24 candidates were well-selected to represent the various regions. The diversity of this year's candidates can be seen in their names, skin tones and charming accents.

Carousel Productions president **Ramon Monzon** and executive vice president

Lorraine Schuck announced that starting this year, both the Miss Philippines and the Miss Earth Beauty Pageants will be telecast on ABS-CBN 2. Miss Philippines will be aired on May 12 at 9:30 p.m. and Miss Earth on Oct. 20 also at 9:30 p.m.

Filipino communities all over the world can watch Miss Philippines on The Filipino Channel, ABS-CBN's international cable network.

Personal

THANKS, from the bottom of my foolish heart and full vodka glass, to my ever-reliable "partner in crime," **Roman T.**, for giving my tear ducts a much-needed rest. Hey, buddy, may the ghost stop haunting and hunting you.

Don't worry, we're in this together.

For feedback, e-mail luludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	HELP! I'M A FISH - GP 12:00, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30	SPIDERMAN - GP 1:20, 4:00

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
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CINEMA-11 (DTS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
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LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	HELP! I'M A FISH
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



GOMA CUP. king Richard Gomez with wife Lucy Torres-Gomez and baby Juliana Marie.



"ABSOLUT" COUPLE. Ariel Rivera and Gelli de Belen.



RETRO HOSTS. Janice de Belen and Paolo Bediones.

Stars go retro and western in 12th Goma Cup in Baguio

AMIDST the cool surroundings and lush greens of Baguio City, the country's top celebrities and junior golfers recently made their way to the links of Camp John Hay to engage in exciting rounds of golfing action during the 12th Goma Cup, the country's most successful celebrity golf tournament.

Led by movie and TV personality Richard Gomez, the star-studded tourney was another huge success, with Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez topping the field.

In the Class A Division, Richard Gomez showed he's the man to beat by lording it over other competitors.

Maru Sotto was first runner-up while TV director Al Quinn was second runner-up.

Veteran actor Eddie Gutierrez topped the Class B Division, closely followed by crooner Bert Nievera and comedian Anjo Yllana.

In the Class C Division, concert king Martin Nievera showed he's also at home in the links as he is onstage by emerging as champion.

Young actor Jomari Yllana finished first runner-up while action star Ian Veneracion wound up as second runner-up.

Nadia Montenegro was queen of the Ladies Division followed by Edna Legaspi and singer Leah Navarro.

Among the show biz personalities who graced the tournament were Vic and Val Sotto, Ruffa Gutierrez, Paulie Yllana, Ariel Rivera, Gelli de Belen, Raymart Santiago, Nestor de Villa, Gary Lising, Christopher Peralta, Shintaro Valdes, Jessa Zaragoza and Annabelle Rama.

Participants wore the latest outfits from Bench, the tournament's official apparel.



"WILD, WILD WEST." Enjoying the theme party are (from left) flutist Jong Cuenco, Gary Lising, Martin Nievera, Hartebeest Entertainment's Marilen Nuñez, Bert Nievera and violinist John Lesaca (behind).

Victory Liner provided the transportation to and from the venue.

The new, elegant and cozy Manor Hotel served as the guests' and participants' home during the event.

Absolut Vodka, Chivas Regal, Jack Daniels and San Miguel Beer poured endlessly during dinner, which was served in various locations with corresponding themes: Wild West at the Manor Hotel's garden, retro '70s at the Camp John Hay Golf Club and formal wear at the Manor's main dining hall.

Awards were handed out to celebrities who wore the most stunning garments to match the dinner's theme.

A series of raffles were also held to spice up the tournament. Non-tournament participants had a blast playing a hole-in-one game courtesy of Nivea, which was won by Amy Cuenco.

Sony Ericsson cellular phones, stylish Oakley eyewear and dazzling Swarovski crystals were also presented to lucky winners.

Jessa Zaragoza won an Omega Constellation watch as grand prize. Omega Constellation combines the feminine sparkle of 2,000 diamonds, which adorn the watches case, dial and bracelet.

Klaudia Koronel wowed everyone with her cowboy outfit, while Rico Miranda, Paolo Bediones and Janice de Belen dazzled guests with their retro attire.



SHOW BIZ couple Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza.

Martin Nievera and Geeta Dargani outshone everyone with their formal ensemble.

Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama were declared Couple of the Night.

Side A band provided the evening's entertainment with their rendition of well-loved songs, while Le Souffle catered mouth-watering meals that satisfied everyone's craving for great food.



GOLF BEAUTIES. Ruffa Gutierrez and Lucy Torres-Gomez with baby Juliana.

Boob-tube boobos

HOST: You have a very unique restaurant here. Can you tell us why people like coming here?
Manager: Our restaurant is a unique attraction because there's an overlooking.
(Ah, so!)

Host: What about this religious statue you have here?

Manager: Oh yes, it's another popular attraction. Our religious statue here is another special attraction because you can eat and at the same time, there is a pilgrimage!
(Do tell!)

Host: Do you think you will win in this contest?

Contestant: Well, I'll just keep my finger crossed!
(Is that like the sound of one hand clapping?)

Host: What is the truth about the controversy that you have been involved in? The public wants to know.

Guest: In this case, it's difficult to tell the truth anymore. There have been too innumerable stories and rumors about this controversy!
(Ay, innumerable!)

Host: What is the goal of this beauty search?

Organizer: We are holding this beauty contest because we are looking for a young, sophisticated girl who can carry the whole country!

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

(That's a heavy load!)

Host: How is your campaign coming along?
Guest: It's doing very well. Since we put out our first announcement, *marami na ang tumawag sa amin—siguro, mga dalawang tao!* (Wow, ang dami talaga!)

Host: Will your forces be able to control the demonstrators expected to turn out in large numbers tomorrow?

Officer: We are very prepared for anything that will happen. Our men have new equipment, and all of them now have gack macks.
(Gack macks?—Oh, gas masks! It must be hard talking clearly while wearing those contraptions...)

Host: What did you take up at the mediaconference you attended?

Guest: In the discussion on TV newscasts, the thrust was to present the news in a different way.

Host: What way?

Guest: In a way that the TV audience would

laugh it up!

(Are you sure they were discussing TV newscasts, not sitcoms?)

Host: What is your final advice to our viewers regarding the savings they can make when they buy medicines?

Guest: Above all, don't go to a drugstore without a doctor's description!
(Description? Duh!)

Ewan McGregor on 'Revealed'

El ENTERTAINMENT Television's **Jules Asner** interviews **Ewan McGregor** in her new show, "Revealed" at 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 12. The actor, who has never been shy about stripping for the movie camera, talks about his sexiest scenes onscreen and "dedicates" his numerous nude sequences to his female costars.

But Asner also discovers McGregor's private side and his family life. The show features additional interviews with the Scottish actor's friends and colleagues, including "Mouline Rouge" director **Baz Luhrman**.

Star Movies

SUNDAY, May 12 at 9 a.m., "Keeping the Faith" with **Edward Norton**, **Ben Stiller** and **Jenna Elfman**.

Sunday, May 19 at 9 p.m., "High Fidelity" with **John Cusack**, **Jack Black**, **Lisa Bonet** and **Todd Louiso**.

Sunday, March 26 at 9 p.m., "Woman on Top" with **Penelope Cruz** and **Harold Perrineau Jr.**

Young Critics Circle bares 1st quarter citations

THE FILM Desk of the Young Critics Circle announces its citations for the first quarter of 2002.

"Buko Pandan," Uro de la Cruz' tale of seduction, murder and sacrifice in a secluded village by the spring inhabited by two sisters on the brink of womanhood, is the sole recipient of the topmost citation for best picture.

The World Arts Cinema production is also selected for the rest of the categories, namely, best screenplay, best cinematography and visual design, best editing, best sound and best performance for Maricar de Mesa as a stern country girl who proves that she could be her kid sister's keeper.

"Buko Pandan" is one of the two films out of some 22 new local releases in the first quarter of 2002 that merit attention from YCC.

The other one is Yam Laranas' "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon" (Viva Entertainment) which casts a cinematic eye over some of Manila's old landmarks that serve as backdrop to the bittersweet affair of a pair of vacillating lovers.

The said film snags citations for best cinematography and visual design and best performance for lead stars Regine Velasquez and Richard Gomez.

The Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle is

the organization of academe-based critics who have become attentive observers of Philippine cinema through the years. Coming from various disciplines, they bring into the analysis of film an interdisciplinary approach.

With the release of its initial set of quarterly citations for the year, YCC sets the ground for the 13th Annual Circle Citations for Distinguished Achievement in Film for 2002.

YCC is composed of president Nonoy Lauzon, vice president Jerry Respeto and members Joey Baquiran, May Datuin, Noel Ferrer, Patrick Flores, Eli Guibé III, Neil Santillan, Ariel Valerio and Leo Zafra.

When newscasters are not before the cameras

NEWSCASTERS seem all-seriousness when they read the news. But before the cameras roll, they also let their hair down when they feel like it.

I was in the make-up room of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division waiting for the start of the taping of my Dollywood movie review segment in "Magandang Umaga Bayan." **Ces Drillon** happened to be around.

Ces and I have this running joke about the "mystical pillows" she gave me. She always asks if the "spell" is already working. In jest, I tell her I'm still trying to conquer more "little lost boys" to make my biography even more colorful.

In between laughter and giggles, Ces told me that she's soon going to open a bookstore in the studio premises.

"It will carry not only books and magazines but also interesting odds and ends," she says. "I already have one in SM Centerpoint. There will be a poetry reading session when my second branch opens in the ABS-CBN compound."

I'm delighted that Ces asked me to be one of the poetry readers. Maybe it's about time I shared some of my naughty but thought-provoking poems.

I watched in amazement as Ces closed a deal over the phone while her hair was being done for the show. As soon as she got off the phone, she had to rush to the studio and face the cameras. What a wonderful woman and a wonderful

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



friend!

A few minutes after Ces stepped out, **Henry Omega Diaz** and **Aljo Bendigo** came in. We have not been formally introduced so I just kept to myself and reviewed my script for "M.U.B." I was a bit amused to see Henry check on his patilya (sideburns), saying it was not evenly cut, and Aljo being told by the make-up artist that he should not cleanse his face with oil or whatever before coming to the studio because the powder does not stick too well to his face.

In case you're surprised, it's de rigueur even for male newscasters, or actors for that matter, to have some powder dabbed on their face to take away the shine lest they look like a frying pan on TV.

Soon enough, **Korina Sanchez** arrived. Since we have not seen each other for a while, we chatted like high school girls and we almost forgot that she would be going on air for "TV Patrol" in a few minutes. She's happy that she won the case against her former housemaid.

You must scratch beneath the surface to get to know how

WHEN/ A21

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B3

TUESDAY,
MAY 7, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

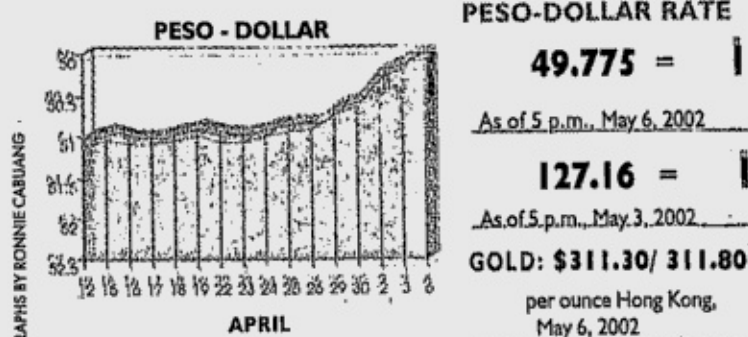
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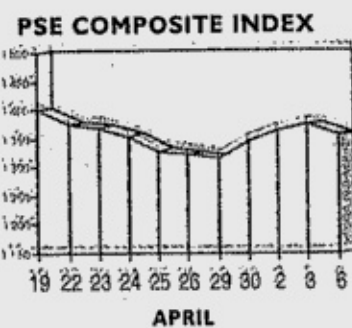
SHARE prices fell 1.3 percent yesterday due to profit-taking on the previous week's gains, brokers said.

"It's because of continued profit-taking, which normally occurs after a significant run-up. The market is also tracking the movement of other Asian markets," said Teresa Lee-Jahriling of Tower Securities.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 17.94 points to close at 1,357.65. Turnover fell to 229 million shares worth P493.83 million from Friday's 340.2 million shares worth P549.5 million.

An announcement by the government of a relatively benign inflation rate of 3.6 percent in April failed to induce buying, Lee-Jahriling said.

"Within the next few days we expect some (positive) reaction because the lower CPI will indicate that the central bank can afford to maintain the low interest rate environment," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities.



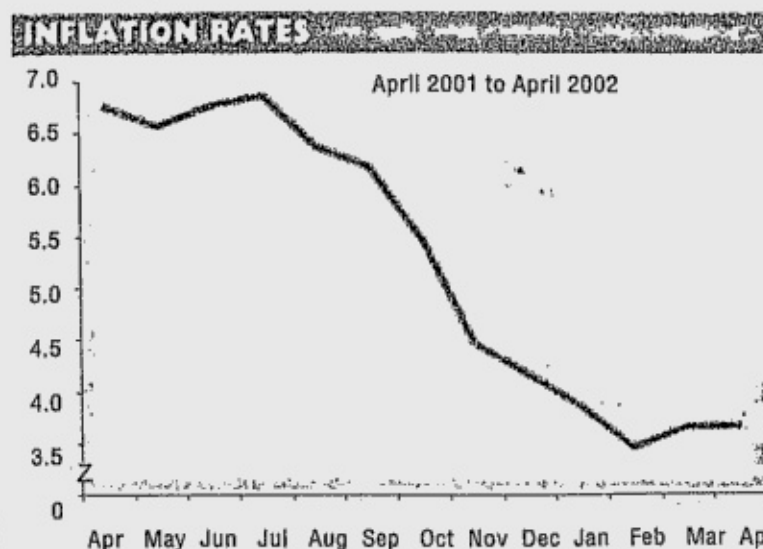
Inflation remains low; BSP keeps rates steady

By Doris C. Dumlaog
and Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate stabilized at 3.6 percent in April, the same level posted in March, as ample agricultural production tempered the pressure arising from the 87-centavo-per-liter increase in local fuel prices last month.

The benign April inflation, which measures the change in the consumer price index, boosted expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would not have to raise interest rates.

When the inflation rate is rising because excess cash is chasing after a limited amount of goods, monetary authorities are usually under pressure to siphon off the excess liquidity in the financial system to arrest consumer spending. To date, however, the government has espoused a low-interest-rate regime to help perk up the domestic economy, which was adversely affected by the glo-



bal slowdown last year.

The National Statistics Office reported that the year-on-year inflation rate for food, beverage and tobacco for April remained at the same 2.5-percent rate in March. The indices for clothing and services likewise firmed up at 2.8 percent and 4.9 percent.

On the other hand, the annual housing and repairs index even decelerated to 5.1 percent from 5.3 percent in March; the fuel,

light and water index, to 8.1 percent from 8.3 percent, and the miscellaneous items, 1.9 percent from 2.2 percent.

The inflation rate for food, a heavyweight in the country's consumer basket, remained at 2.3 percent in April. A slower rate of increase was recorded in the price of rice, the country's main staple, as well as for cereal preparations, dairy products, eggs, fish and meat. These neutralized the in-

crease in the prices of corn, fruits, vegetables and miscellaneous foods.

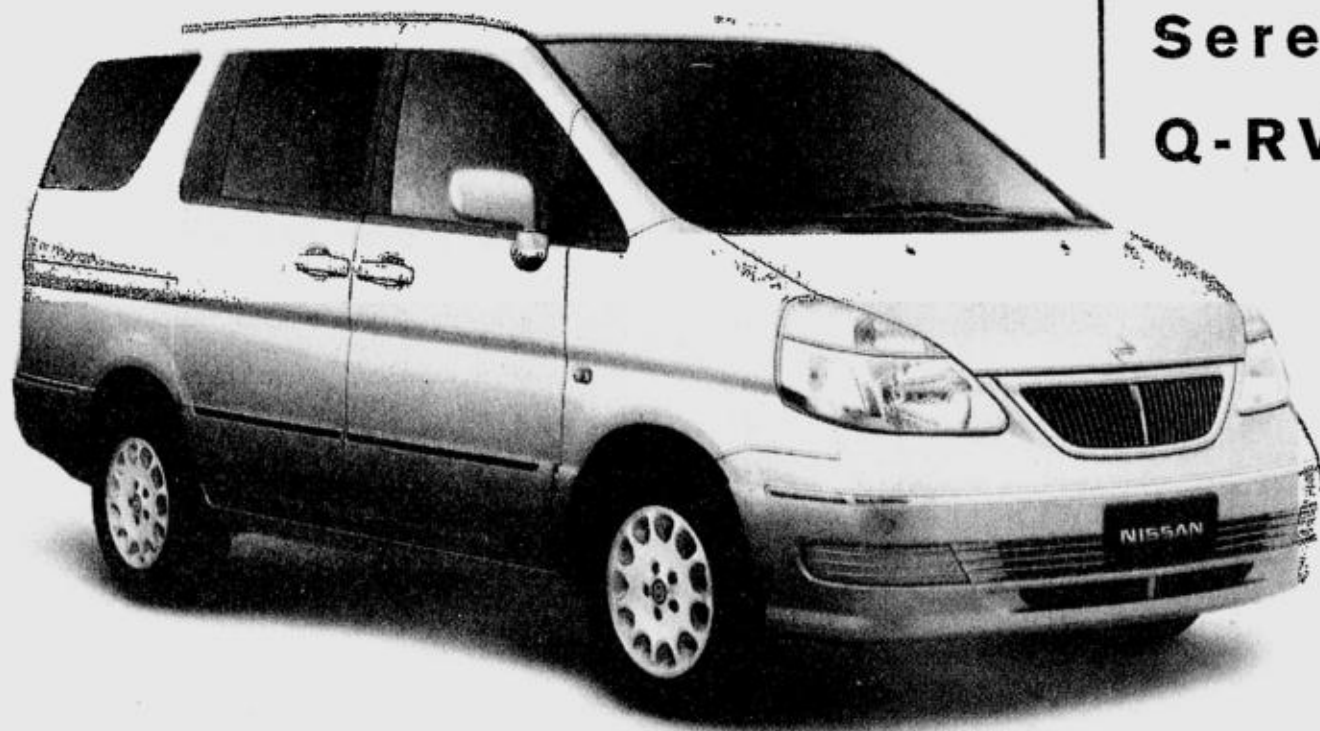
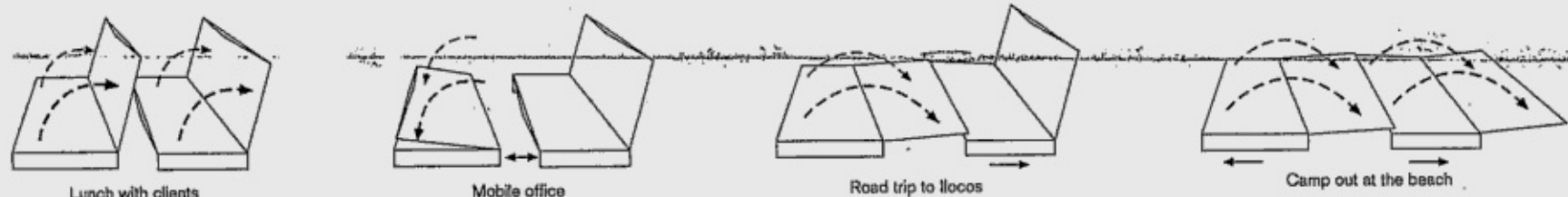
The National Capital Region saw a decline in its annual inflation rate to 4.9 percent in April from 5.1 percent in March, but the rate in the provinces inched up to 3.1 percent from 3 percent.

The country's annual inflation rate had been slowing down for eight consecutive months and hit a two-year low of 3.4 percent in February this year before bottoming out in March following the volatility in global oil prices brought by the tension in the Middle East.

From January to April this year, however, the country's inflation rate averaged 3.6 percent or still way below the government's 5-6 percent target range for the whole year.

Month-on-month inflation for April remained at 0.2 percent, as the upswing in the prices of services, fuel, light and water was offset by the slowdown in the inflation rates of food, beverage and tobacco as well as clothing.

INFLATION/B3



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Banco de Oro to put up credit card, property subsidiaries

By Doris C. Dumlaog
and Elena Torrijos

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy, yesterday announced plans to venture into the credit card and realty businesses as part of its expansion program.

The bank's IPO underwriters also indicated plans to exercise the option to increase the offering by 15 percent, or the so-called "greenshoe" option, because of strong demand for the shares. Its initial public offering began yesterday.

BDO president Nestor Tan yesterday disclosed during an investors' briefing on its IPO that the bank was now incorporating two new subsidiaries.

He explained that the incorporation of BDO Credit Card Co. was the bank's "entry into the consumer business," taking advantage of its links with the well-noted SM group of companies.

The establishment of a credit card business would boost the bank's interest income as BDO aims

to chalk up about P1 billion in net profit yearly on a sustainable basis, he said.

Tan also said the bank would put up a realty company to handle some of the bank's real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoa), which stood at about P4.5 billion as of end-2001. He said the bank's affiliation with the property development companies within the SM group could provide the expertise in handling such assets.

Tan noted that bulk of BDO's ropoa consisted of properties within Metro Manila whose value could easily be unlocked.

Since BDO obtained its universal banking license from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in 1996, Tan said the bank has since then ventured into other allied and non-allied businesses. For instance, he said the bank went into foreign exchange and insurance brokerage and likewise put up investment house BDO Capital Corp.

He said such expansion was in line with plans to increase the bank's "annuity income" or that

which does not rely on the performance of the domestic economy, such as overseas remittances, insurance and retail distribution of corporate debt.

Tan said the bank was aiming for "sustainable, less volatile earnings."

For the first quarter of the year, Tan said BDO had P130 million in net profit, which was in line with its target to double its earnings to close to P1 billion this year from the level in 2001.

BDO is offering to the public 10 percent of its total equity worth a total P1.85 billion, the biggest offering by a local company in the Philippine Stock Exchange in more than two years. The bank will list its shares on the PSE this May 21.

Separately, Natividale Alejo, president of IPO lead underwriter BPI Capital Corp., said: "We will (exercise the greenshoe option) but we don't know if demand will be satisfied."

One of the IPO underwriters said the BDO offering was oversubscribed by three times the original offering of 89.04 million shares.

Jollibee stays cheap; Q1 profit seen up 4%

JOLLIBEE Foods, the country's hugely popular answer to McDonald's, is expected to eke out only about 4-percent growth in first-quarter earnings with its margins pressured by rising costs, analysts said.

Jollibee, wary of scaring off its mass market, has refused to raise prices of its fried chicken, burgers and pasta, relying instead on volume growth to feed into the bottom line.

"There will be minimal growth in its bottom line. Its margins have been tight in recent years. I would not expect double-digit (income) growth," said Spencer Yap, an analyst at BPI Securities Inc.

"Their prices remain low but costs rise every year, they have to match it. In effect, their growth is through volume, it's a low margin business."

The firm said it would announce its first-quarter financial performance on May 14. Multex

Global Estimates' consensus net profit forecast for Jollibee this year is at P1.06 billion. Oliver Plana, an analyst at Asiasac Equities Inc., said he expects Jollibee to at least repeat its 4.2-percent income growth in the first quarter last year.

Jollibee posted a net income of P217 million in the first three months of 2001 on system-wide retail sales of P5.5 billion.

The company has not made any forecast for first-quarter earnings but said it expects the full-year net income to come in 15 percent higher year-on-year, or at P1.09 billion.

It recorded a net income last year of P949.91 million, just 4.4 percent higher year-on-year due to one-time expenses.

Though still the market leader with a 60.5-percent share of the Philippine fast-food market, Jollibee's profit growth is closely tied to the rise and fall of the local economy. **Reuters**

AUDIT UPGRADE

SEC seeks ADB funding

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is seeking a \$1-million technical assistance grant from the Asian Development Bank to build up its capability to review the audited financial statements of listed companies.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista disclosed this to reporters in a briefing last week following reports criticizing the SEC for lax regulation that has resulted in poor auditing and accounting standards in the country.

Bautista said that the \$1 million would help the SEC build up its capability to review listed firms' audited reports and would also go to paying experts to help the SEC in the endeavor.

Last month, Bautista said the SEC would form a team to closely scrutinize audited financial statements of the country's 233 listed companies and see if these statements comply with accounting rules set forth by the regulatory agency.

The SEC was looking to enlist the help of experts from the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines or the University of the Philippines' college of business administration.

"We want them (experts) to evaluate the financial statements (of listed companies), look at them more closely, particularly those which have subsidiaries or

are subsidiaries themselves," Bautista said.

Bautista pointed out that even if a listed company does not own 51 percent of a unit but nevertheless has control over it then the listed company must include the unit in the consolidated financial statements it files annually with the SEC.

She said that in some cases consolidated financial statements suffered from double counting in the recognition of assets, liabilities and stockholders' equity.

Audited financial statements should follow all accounting rules of the SEC, Bautista stressed, noting that violation of the SEC's rules could be considered a criminal offense.

The SEC's implementing rules and regulations for the Securities Regulation Code requires stock corporations with paid up capital of at least P50,000 to have an independent certified public accountant audit their financial statements.

The SEC's amended Rule 68 also provides the form and content of financial statements filed with the SEC that are prepared and presented in line with generally accepted accounting principles.

The SEC has also required listed companies to choose only external auditors accredited by the government agency and to rotate these auditors every three years.

DISCLOSURES

UNION Bank of the Philippines declared a P0.40 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 10 and will be payable on June 5.

CORRO-COAT Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10, 3 p.m. at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club.

PHILIPPINE Telegraph & Telephone Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 60-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.16 to P0.24 per share.

ZIPPORAH Realty Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 22, 10 a.m. at the Manila Golf Club. Stockholders as of May 24 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

BANK of the Philippine Islands declared a 20-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 18 and shall be distributed 30 days from the record date.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, May 6, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6	5	5	5	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	70	69	70	356,700
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	30
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	39.5	38	38.5	114,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	54,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41.5	41.5	40.5	41	171,600
Philippine National Bank	52.5	52.5	52	52.5	4,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	23.5	23.5	72,500

BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1465	1460	1465	7,640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	160,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1105	1100	1105	2,330

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,130,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	635	640	30,610
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	1,070,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	0.27	0.32	0.27	0.31	790,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	455	460	452.5	452.5	49,820
Philweb Corp Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Philweb Corp Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	10,100,000

POWER & ENERGY	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26	25	25	37,900
Manila Electric Co. B	41.5	41.5	40	40	716,900
Petrone Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.68	1.68	5,893,000
Salcom Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	400,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	90,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	1,846,000
William, Gothong & Abolito	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000

CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	269,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30.5	30	30	3,080,800
Rfm Corp.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.24	5,321,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	49	49.5	630,700
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	57.5	57	57.5	179,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	300,000

HOLDING FIRMS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.8	867,000
Aboltz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	793,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	1,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	5,000
Salabac Resources & Hldgs	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	130,000
Benres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.62	0.63	1,700,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	810,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	576,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	93,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.13	870,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7	6.9	6.9	106,000
Macroasia Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	1,890,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.61	0.64	0.61	0.64	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	500,000
Unilwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	800,000

MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.9	180,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	30,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	35,000
Stanley Manufacturing	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000

HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Balls Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.49	0.5	5,540,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	50,000

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30	29.5	30	2,394,200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.66	0.7	0.66	0.7	60,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	730	785	730	775	16,110
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000

PROPERTY	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	9,917,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	780,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	2,314,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	57,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	3,307,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	650,000

MINING	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Itogon-Siyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	3,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.225	2,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,500,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	1,800,000

OIL	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	37,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	73,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.3	0.36	0.3	0.3	260,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000

SHARES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,042,800				52,705,295
Comm'l & Ind'l	75,867,240				338,852,840
PRO	17,375,000				99,245,020.00
Mining	22,630,000				2,142,450.00
OIL	111,410,000				580,900.00
GRAND TOTALS	228,324,840.00				3,506,505

AVERAGES	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	DOWN
Banks & Fin Svc	670.89				DOWN 60.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,807.10				DOWN 23.43
PRO	618.57				DOWN 11.85
Mining	1,380.78				UP 64.60
OIL	1.41				UP 0.06
All Shares Index	764.91				DOWN 1.74
Composite	1,357.65				DOWN 17.94
NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98 NO. OF TRADES: 1,671					

CURRENCIES

May 6, 2002					
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Pesos	
United States	Dollar	1.104118	1.000000	50.1650	
Japan	Yen	0.008697	0.007877	0.3951	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622392	1.469400	73.7125	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141576	0.128225	6.4324	
Switzerland	Franc	0.695990	0.630358	31.6225	
Canada	Dollar	0.706184	0.639591	32.0825	
Singapore	Dollar	0.612107	0.564385	27.8125	
Australia	Dollar	0.594571	0.536503	27.0125	
Bahrain	Dinar	2.928852	2.852661	133.0725	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.254432	0.266667	13.3025	
Brunei	Dollar	0.607995	0.550661	27.6525	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000108	0.0050	
Thailand	Baht	0.026641	0.023223	1.1625	
UAE	Dirham	0.300612	0.272264	13.6525	
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000785	0.0390	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.905700	45.4325	
Brazil	Real	0.452199	0.414938	20.8125	
Denmark	Kroner	0.134610	0.123518	6.1525	
India	Rupee	0.022286	0.020450	1.0325	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.286769	0.263158	13.2125	
Mexico	New Peso	0.116384	0.105876	5.3025	
New Zealand	Dollar	0.468021	0.447808	22.4025	
Norway	Kroner	0.132035	0.121155	6.0525	
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018208	0.016708	0.8325	
South Africa	Rand	0.104815	0.096178	4.8125	
Sweden	Kroner	0.107783	0.098902	4.9125	
Syria	Pound	0.024766	0.022727	1.1325	
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031598	0.028994	1.4025	
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001246	0.001143	0.0575	

WANTS OUT OF PARTNERSHIP

DBS set to sell 20% BPI stake

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Singapore is set to sell its 20-percent stake in the Bank of the Philippine Islands as it reportedly wants out of its partnership with the Ayala group.

A person familiar with the matter said the Singaporeans were disappointed in the performance of the Ayala-controlled BPI and were "upset" that they were not allowed to actively participate in the bank's management as provided in their agreement.

As a result, officers representing DBS have not even been attending BPI board meetings of late.

In 1999, DBS pumped in over \$700 million or roughly P32 billion in the bank, based on the prevailing exchange rate at that time, to acquire an equivalent 20-percent stake in BPI

following the latter's merger with Far East Bank and Trust Co.

As part of the agreement to help BPI acquire FEBTC, DBS officers were supposed to be given representation in key management committees in BPI but, except for one committee, the agreement was not met.

DBS also invested in BPI on the assumption that BPI would meet its profit projections following the merger with FEBTC.

In a presentation material to stock analysts following the agreement to merge with FEBTC, BPI said it expected net profit to reach P8.39 billion in 2000 as a result of the merger. For that year, however, BPI's actual income only reached P3.051 billion.

BPI had also projected that the merged bank's net profit would rise to P11.45 billion and to P13.29 billion in

2001 and 2002, respectively. For 2001, BPI's net income amounted to P5.3 billion or less than half the projected profit.

The sources said DBS was willing to unload its 20-percent stake in BPI at market price given that it has already allocated provisions for the investment.

The regional banking giant, however, has found it difficult to find a buyer for the large stake.

BPI and DBS officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

BPI is the country's second largest bank. As of the end of last year, Ayala Corp., the flagship holding company of the Zobel de Ayala family, directly owned 25 percent of BPI, Ayala DBS Holdings, 21.43 percent and PCD nominees, 21.5 percent.

BPI expects a 5-10 percent increase in profit this year.



FINANCE
Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho swears in investment banker Simon R. Paterno as new president and chief executive officer of the Development Bank of the Philippines. Paterno, 43, is the youngest to be appointed CEO of the state-owned bank.

Inflation remains low...

From page B1

and miscellaneous items.

"It's good news," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said after the data was announced. "It validates our belief that there is no need to increase interest rates whatsoever at this time. And that our feeling is that we probably could maintain such levels of interest rates for some time."

The Bangko Sentral currently maintains an overnight borrowing rate of 7 percent, the lowest since 1992, and its overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent.

The bank has lowered rates 19 times since December 2000 for a cumulative reduction of eight percentage points. But it has said rates are likely to be kept on hold at least until November, when they start to trend upward alongside an uptick in inflation.

Oliver Plana, head of research at Asiasec Equities Inc., said the April inflation was at the low end of his firm's expected range of 3.6 to 4 percent for the period.

"I think this is partly because agricultural production remained robust so it mitigated the increases on oil pump prices," Plana said.

As such, Plana said agricultural production would play a big role on whether inflation would remain benign for the rest of the year. Assuming that production would continue to be stable, he said inflation would be a "non-issue" or below the 5-percent level.

AB Capital Securities Inc. economist Jose Vistan said the impact of the oil price increase during the period had yet to affect consumer prices because most domestic producers could not pass on the higher cost of production to consumers.

"The economy is still weak. We're not in a recession but consumer demand is weak so the producers' pricing capability is also weak," Vistan said.

Vistan said some upsurge in inflation was likely by the second half of the year, partly due to the low base from last year and the expected pick-up in demand alongside the stronger economic expansion.

"But as long as inflation falls within

the government's expectation, the BSP can afford to keep interest rates low. There might be some small adjustments but there isn't likely to be a significant shift in monetary policy," Vistan said.

Vistan also said the recurrence of the El Niño dry spell predicted by the government's weather forecasters later this year could also affect food supply.

Financial markets did not react much to the data despite forecasts stocks could get a lift because the continued low interest rate environment would ensure cheap funding for corporations. Analysts also said the data was positive for Philippine bond markets.

The peso also ignored the likelihood of low interest rates continuing, and strengthened past the 50 to the dollar barrier.

CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To The Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given to the Stockholders of Citystate Savings Bank, Inc. (CSBI) that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of CSBI will be held at the 20th Floor of Citystate Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, on Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. for the transaction of the following business:

- I. Calling of Meeting to Order.
- II. Certification of Notice.
- III. Determination and Declaration of Quorum.
- IV. Reading and Approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on April 24, 2001.
- V. Reading of Annual Report and Approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of 31 December 2001 incorporated in the Annual Report.
- VI. Approval and Confirmation of all acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Audit Committee, all other Board and Management Committees, and Officers of CSBI.
- VII. Election of members of the Board of Directors.
- VIII. Election of External Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration.
- IX. Other Matters.

The record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on March 16, 2002.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary at CSBI, 2nd Floor, Citystate Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City not later than 5:00 p.m. of May 24, 2002. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on May 27, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

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ATTY. JOAQUIN T. VENUS, JR.
Director and Corporate Secretary

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Tel.# 817-5243

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HIDDEN VALLEY SPRINGS
Ms. Norie Ortiz, Accountant
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SOLID VIDEO CORP.
Ms. Tita Rayala
Accounting Manager
Tel. #840-4965

TRINITY COLLEGE
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Chief Accountant
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CACHO CONSTRUCTIONS, INC.
Ms. Jacqueline Garcia, Accountant
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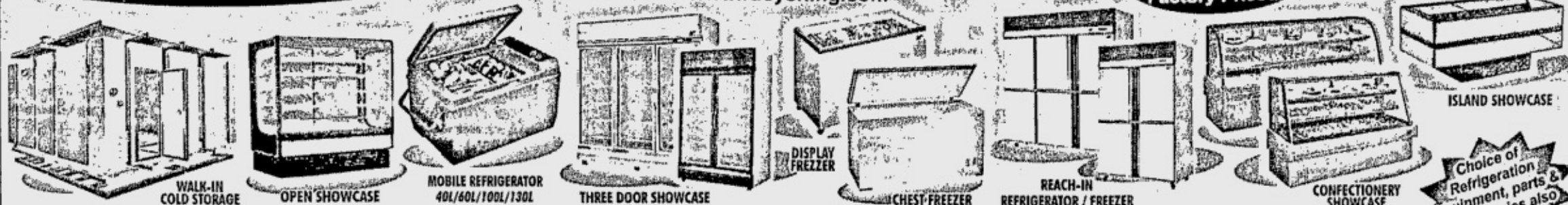
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Filinvest donates San Beda Taytay site

FILINVEST Land Inc. has donated 10 hectares of land in Taytay, Rizal to San Beda College where the school will relocate its preschool to high school levels and as an extension of its college campus in Mendiola.

Both the local and provincial governments welcome the entry of a well-established Catholic private school to the area. This move is seen to improve the quality of education made available to their constituencies as well as places in

Taytay in the educational map of Rizal.

San Beda College was founded in Mendiola a century ago when Fr. Juan Sabater, OSB, established the first San Beda College, named after the great English Benedictine saint and scholar, Venerable Bede. In 1901, the school was located in Arlegui, Quiapo, with Fr. Silvestre Jofre as its first Rector.

After 100 years, San Beda College has evolved into what is today: offering a Graduate School

of Business, College of Law, College of Arts and Sciences. Starting the school year 2002-2003, the school will also open its College of Medicine and offer a Master of Arts in Liturgy program.

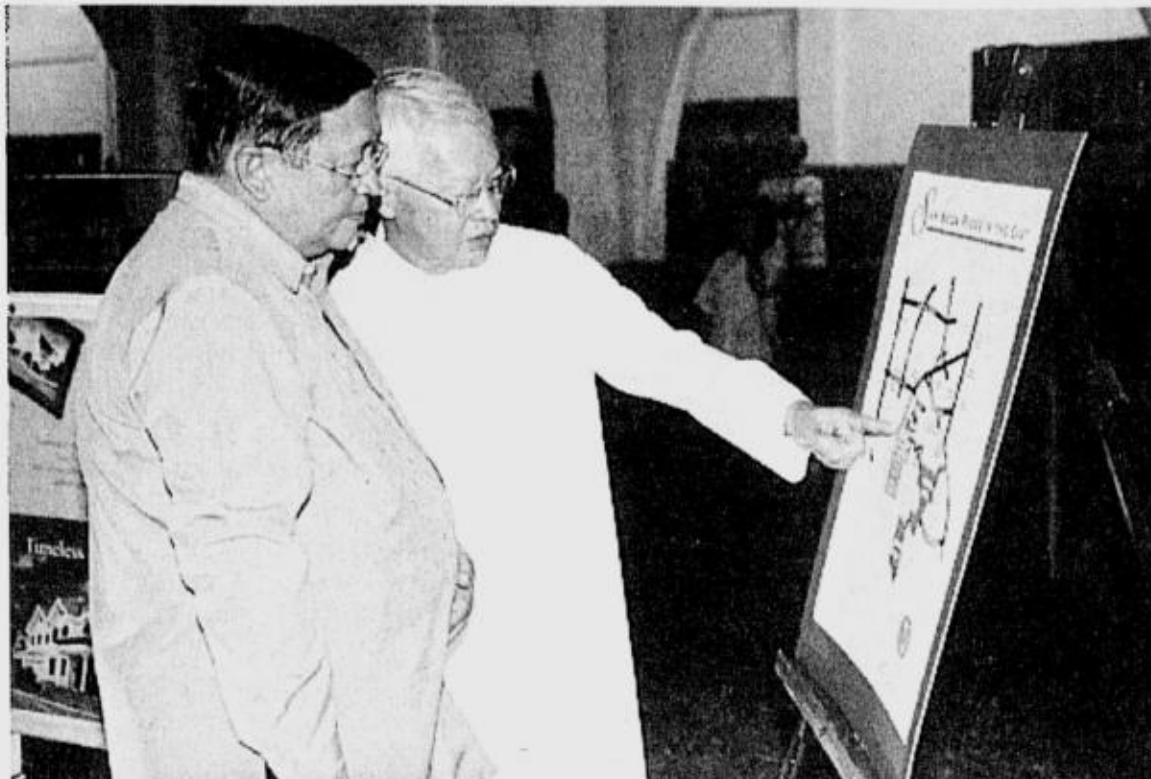
10-hectares

Recognizing the importance of having a major educational institution as part of an integrated township development, Filinvest Land chair Andrew Gotianun Sr. set aside 10 hectares within Filinvest East County, for this purpose. The FEC is at present made up of the following residential communities: Mission Hills, Antipolo City and Highlands Pointe, Taytay, Rizal.

Choosing an educational institution to invite into the township was not a difficult one. Being a Bedan alumnus recognizing the value of a Catholic education that emphasizes prayer, work and peace in molding future leaders and responsible citizens. Thus, San Beda was a natural choice.

Solemn celebration

To formalize the agreement, a solemn, heartwarming celebration was held recently starting at the San Beda Chapel where the Benedictine monks welcomed guests in the traditional "Vespers," prayer and singing of hymns. The gathering then proceeded to the Sabater Garden



FR. Rector Anscar Chupungco, OSB, points to the future site of San Beda in Taytay, Rizal, close to the Filinvest County. With him is Sen. Raul Roco, who is also the education secretary.

(named after the founder of the first San Beda College) where the Montserrat Male Singers rendered a mini concert.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Rev. Fr. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, OSB, Ab-

bot Chancellor, San Beda College; Rev. Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB, Rector of San Beda College; and Joseph M. Yap, president of Filinvest Land.

San Beda College preschool, grade school and high school lev-

els will be ready for school year 2004-2005.

"The education of a private Catholic school of high standards such as San Beda College is an important component of community development," said Yap.



THE RT. Rev. Tarcisio Narciso, Abbot Chancellor of Benedictine Abbey, blesses the four St. Benedict medals which will be planted at the cornerstone of the future site of San Beda. Assisting him is San Beda Grade School principal Father Anthony.

What some Pinoy homes have in common with White House

FACT is, any home or property is a target for termites, including the White House.

In 1998, subterranean termites were discovered in the West Wing of the White House. Termites entered the structure through a small crack in the foundation and swarmed just 30 feet from the Oval Office. Although no major structural damage was found, immediate action was needed to protect the White House from future termite invasion.

Today, some of the world's most recognized structures like the White House, the Statue of Liberty, the US Independence Hall, the Senate Building in Rome, and several Philippine historical sites including the Rizal Shrine in Calamba, the Barasoain Museum, the Bonifacio Trial House and the Aguinaldo Shrine in Cavite are being protected by Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System. Many homes and properties in the Philippines and across America, Europe, Australia

and Asia are also being safeguarded by the system.

Innovative system

Sentricon system, developed by Dow Agro Sciences, is an innovative baiting system that has been taking the pest control industry by storm. It takes advantage of natural termite behavior and acts like a security system, providing your home and property long-term protection from termites.

Voracious subterranean termites used to forage at the base of the Statue of Liberty Monument that houses the museum and utility rooms. Before Sentricon came in, termites were so troublesome that at one point, the museum area of the monument in the New York Harbor had to be temporarily closed to visitors. Thanks to Sentricon, one of the most revered monuments in the world is now termite-free.

Here's how the revolutionary Sentricon system wipes out multiple termite colonies. First, the

pest control professional places monitoring stations in the soil around the sites, checking these regularly for signs of termite activity. Next, as soon as the termites begin feeding in the station, the Sanitech or Sentricon technician replaces the monitoring device with a Baitube device that contains termite bait (the substance prevents them from molting, so that they are unable to grow, causing them to die). The termites unsuspectingly summon their nest mates to the site by leaving a scent trail leading back to the bait. Finally, once the colony is eliminated, the bait will be replaced with new monitoring devices, which the technician will inspect closely and regularly for renewed termite activity.

Environment friendly

Hexaflumuron, the bait material in Sentricon, is the first pest control product in the United States to receive "fast track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new

"Reduced Pesticide Risk" category. Sentricon was also awarded the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award by the Clinton administration for its commitment to keep the environment safe.

Subterranean termites are the most economically devastating wood-destroying insects. To protect your bigger investments—your homes and commercial properties—it is wise to invest in an antitermite technology that gives your home continuous defense. Sentricon is so effective it is acknowledged to have established a new standard for protecting properties against subterranean termites. The system is odorless, absolutely nondisruptive, environment-friendly and safe, which makes Sentricon the excellent choice for "sensitive" areas like homes, hospitals, drugstores, food establishments, shopping complexes, warehouses, clubhouses, schools, libraries, museums and even presidential palaces.



THE ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Camp John Hay Forest Cabins

Forest cabins soon to rise at John Hay

A NEW type of luxury homes rises at Camp John Hay.

The Forest Cabins are two-story, two-bedroom duplexes that will replace the old cottages at the Scout Hill. These cabins form part of the residential cluster under the John Hay master development plan, along with the country homes and log homes.

From its exterior finish of red cedar logs and Baguio stone, to its cozy interiors, the Forest Cabin is everything a Baguio home should be. Designed by RR Payumo and Partners and to be constructed by Global Shelter Inc., the cabins offer a cool respite from the fast-paced life in the urban jungle.

The main door opens to a foyer, which leads to the living room where one could sit snugly in front of the fireplace. Adjacent to the living room is the dining room, which has a patio that looks out to a refreshing view of the pine forest. Also at the ground floor are the kitchen and powder room. At

the second floor are the bedrooms that have their own toilets and baths. A landscape design, utilizing various flowering plants endemic in Baguio, will provide an added touch of warmth and charm to the cabins.

Located amid the John Hay pine forest, the Forest Cabin is an ideal choice for families who want to spend short vacations in Baguio, or make Camp John Hay their second home. After all, staying at Camp John Hay not only means being able to savor the fresh and clean environment, but being able to enjoy the numerous recreation, dining and shopping facilities available as well.

The Forest Cabins are available on a long-term lease agreement under cash terms and flexible in-house financing schemes. The Camp John Hay Forest Cabins are being exclusively marketed by the Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies.

Subdivision developers back int'l trade show

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association, the umbrella organization of subdivision and housing developers throughout the Philippines, has announced its support to Home & Garden Asia 2002, the international exhibition on home and garden products scheduled on Sept. 19-21 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

The SHDA is the latest group to

back the trade show, which had earlier gained the support of the US Commercial Service, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Home & Garden 2002 is Asia's premier and most productive venue for specialty retailers and wholesalers dealing in home and garden products, furnishing bou-

tiques, gourmet and gift stores, and mass market retailers.

Up for exhibition during the three-day show are consumers electronics and home appliances, furnishings and furniture, garden products including garden accessories, garden ornaments and supplies, floral equipment, materials for horticulture, plant pots and containers, swimming pool equipment and supplies, and lawn cut-

ting tools and lawn mowers.

Organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International, Home & Garden Asia 2002 offers special services to all exhibitors, including facilities for product demos and lectures on relevant subjects. For inquiries, call up Elizabeth M. Cruz at 818-6828 and 8132473 or Robert A. Sanchez at 813-2472 and 810-1389.

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NEW STA LUCIA SUBDIVISION OPENS

Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. holds in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, the debut ceremonies for Woodside Garden Village project, one of the series of exclusive residential developments it is constructing throughout the country. The ceremonies were led by Police community relations officer Capt. Henry James, Royale Homes Administration and Finance EVP Mayleen Bernardino, Urdaneta City Vice Mayor Adolfo Basco, Sales and Marketing EVP Ma. Carmina Sotto and sales director Phil Delfino and Councilor Julio Parayno.

Powerful perimeter protection

A POWERFUL perimeter protection is your first-level security and is probably your most important line of defense against burglary or intrusion into your property. Most people would want to foil any attempt of burglary or intrusion even before a burglar or thief sets foot inside their homes.

However, most conventional sensors get "detected" or seen first by the burglar even before the perimeter sensors detect them.

Sequech Corp., the country's emerging leader in security systems, provides the most reliable solution for perimeter protection with the VMX Series, made by Visonic Ltd., the world's leading manufacturer of high-tech

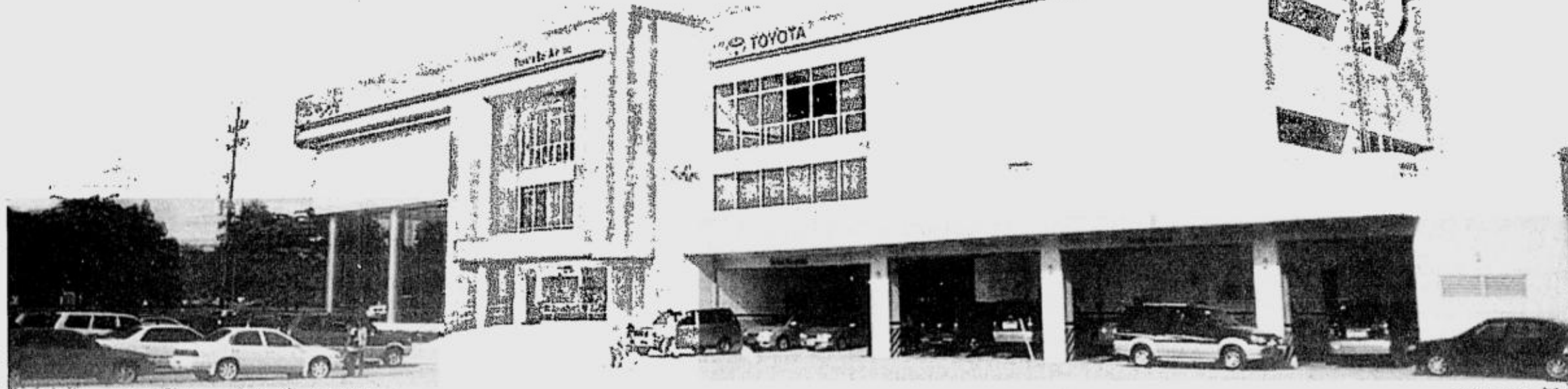
security systems.

The VMX series uses dual photoelectric beams that can effectively cover 10 times the normal rated outdoor distance. Unlike ordinary beams that emit light forewarning intruders, VMX photoelectric beams are invisible and so the intruder freely moves about without knowing that his presence has already been detected even before he could enter the house.

Moreover, the VMX series is easy to install and is equipped with protection circuitry against lightning. The detectors can be set to fit existing environmental conditions to prevent false alarms.

REAL ESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



2,000-sq.-m property highlights edge of Makati business hub

THE NEW Toyota Bel-Air building



MAKATI Mayor Jejomar C. Binay greets Inquirer Chair Marixi Prieto during the Toyota Bel-Air inauguration.



PAMPANGA Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, Mayor Binay, Toyota Bel-Air Chair Nita L. Yupangco and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. president Nobuharu Tabata.



MS World Philippines 2002 Katherine Anne Manalo, Ms International 2002 Kristine Alzar and former senator Orly Mercado.

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT'S not every day that you'd find an auto showroom in a subdued part of a financial hub.

But there it is, right at the crossroads of Ayala and Metropolitan Avenues—at the far edge of Makati business hub—standing regally, a 2,000-square-meter glass-paneled white edifice that sits on a 10,000-sq.-m stretch. Owned by the Yupangcos, the land still has some 7,000 sq. m that are being planned for the auto showroom's extension.

A Korean conglomerate almost built a building in the same spot five years ago but the project was shelved due to the Asian currency crisis that halted most construction projects.

P100-M building facility

The newest building facility that costs more than P100 million is touted as the biggest car dealership in Makati City. It is the new home of Toyota Bel-Air. The facility features the newest image concept of an automotive showroom, its interior design, service reception and VIP lounge provided by its mother company in Japan.

In terms of putting up automotive dealerships, Toyota Bel-Air Inc. president Philip L. Yupangco said the newly constructed building only says one thing: that it's a long-term business. He added that it's a big jump from the Toyota Bel-Air on Gil Puyat Avenue where the dealership used to lease P1.5 million a month.

"Better location, bigger place, wide parking areas, elegant lounge and first-rate showroom. Ever since we opened April 1, the inquiries and visitors doubled compared to the previous location," he said.

Marked improvement

There's a marked improvement in sales as well as the after-sales service, confirms Jerry T. Guanco, Toyota Bel-Air Inc. deputy vehicle sales manager. "We expect to meet our monthly target. We expect to sell 180 units a month because of the new facilities and the new location. We could be visibly seen from the business district."

The dealership accommodates about 50 units. Guanco said they used to see customers leave the previous Bel-Air showroom because of lack of parking space.



ROBERT Yupangco and Arturo Macapagal

Better location, bigger place, wide parking areas, elegant lounge and first-rate showroom.

The target market, though mostly in Makati area, is not limited to the nearby residents.

Toyota Bel Air Inc. is the first Toyota dealer in the country. It was originally situated on Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) where it opened its doors to its customers in 1989. It started as a small, compact workforce that has now evolved into a bigger working team trained with after-sales service. It also introduced its fast access bays five years ago and has serviced thousands of vehicles.

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Datumanong named new bridge tsar

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has designated Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong to head the President's Bridge Program (BPB).

The program includes all ongoing and proposed bridge projects funded through the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways, DPWH-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Department of Interior and Local Government and other government agencies.

Launched in 1994 to address the bridge infrastructure deficit in the country, the presidential program was initially headed by the executive secretary who was tasked to oversee and monitor the effective and efficient implementation of the bridge projects initiated by the President.

This includes the Salam Peace Bridge Project, the Tulay ng Pangulo sa Barangay Project and the Tulay ng Pangulo sa SZOPAD project.

By virtue of Memorandum Order 53, Datumanong was designated by the President to oversee and monitor the efficient implementation of the project.

The order also created a President's Bridge Program Office within the DPWH as a special program management unit to assist the department secretary in the bridge program.

Datumanong has designated Public Works Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto as program director of the PBPO. Rising from the ranks, Pleyto was head of Region 4 before assuming the post of assistant secretary.

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L600 Visayas Ave, QC Comm'l

LA280m Apo St. Sta Mesa

Quirino Hwy H/L Good for

T. SORA BUNG

SALE P2.5M

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST

PROVINCIAL

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3

RUSHI Bar & Billiards w/ 2BR

TGTYAT Mtroge

LOT

PARANAQUE

BLS 509m

East Serv Rd Posadas 791m

PASIG

Ind V/L 2000

CORINTHIAN LOTS

Pioneer cor., one block Shaw

QUEZON CITY

12th Avenue cor Bont Serrano

LA405 Short Horn Proj.

LA1000 Fairview QC V-Lot

LA932 Baesa QC V-Lot 4ind.

LA800 Del Monte Ave. V-Lot

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS

PANAY cor. SCT. ALBANO

PROVINCIAL

Ciudad Maharlika-Lucena

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

2-Bedroom Makati Condo

MANILA

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

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MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

N. Mla Pasig

Town-Hse Nr Capitol 8 3 Levels

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO CONDO

Nr ABS-CBN 2.5M

PROVINCIAL

MARBLE VILLAS, Bulacan

MEMORIAL LOT

FACTORY/WHSE

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FACTORIES

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 1BR/2B grge

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB Proj 8 QC

PARANAQUE

BLS 509m

East Serv Rd Posadas 791m

PASIG

Ind V/L 2000

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

GSIS CEBU BRANCH OFFICE
 City Savings Bank Bldg., Osmeña Blvd.
 P. Burgos Street, Cebu City
 IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested contractors to pre-qualify and to bid for the CONSTRUCTION of the PROPOSED THREE-STORY GSIS CEBU BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING within the 4927 square-meter property of the GSIS along Leon Kilat St., Cebu City.

Interested bidders with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license of "AAA" for general building and classification of at least Large "A" for building may secure standard Pre-qualification Forms from the Office of the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Cebu Branch Office at Room 204 City Savings Bank Building, Osmeña Blvd. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City with Tel. No. 256-1356, upon submission of Letter of Intent. Pre-qualification documents must be returned duly accomplished to the same office not later than May 31, 2002.

Pre-qualified bidders shall be informed by mail or fax message of Pre-Bid Conferences and Bid Schedules. All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding and award shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of PD 1594, as amended in May 24, and July 5, 2000.

THE GSIS IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR INFORMALITIES OF THE BIDS RECEIVED, TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GSIS AND DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE. THE DECISION OF THE GSIS IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE IN THIS REGARD SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) MERIAN M. CASTELLANO
 Branch Manager

(PDI - May 7, 14 & 20, 2002)

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 (Lawang Bato)
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 200 SQ.M. APARTMENT
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OBITUARIES

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 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

MINERVA MALLARI
DELAS ALAS

Passed away on May 4, 2002 at 4:05 PM (PST)
 in Pomona, California at the age of 47.

She is survived by her husband Romeo R. Delas Alas; her mother Violeta A. Mallari; sisters and brother Becky and An-an Francisco, Marissa and Bu Rodriguez, Wendy and Tina Mallari; nieces and nephew Kristel, Mia and Anna Rodriguez, and Luigi, Katherine and Patricia Francisco; sister-in-law Emma Aldon and family, and other relatives and friends.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at 10:00 in the morning at the Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Berkeley Avenue in Claremont, California, and at 6:00 in the evening at the Parish of St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

*I have been through the valley of weeping,
 The valley of sorrow and pain;
 But the God of all comfort was with me,
 At hand to uphold and sustain.*

CARIDAD HIZON MORALES

Peacefully joined her Creator
 on May 5, 2002 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved husband Carlos; her only son Victor; daughter-in-law Maggie; grandchildren Carlo and Chichi; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Solace Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels.

First Death Anniversary

DR. JOAQUIN I. PEREZ, M.D.

of Naga City

who died on May 7, 2001.

His loving wife Virginia H. Felipe-Perez; children Dr. Joaquin Jr. M.D., Dulce, Jose, Ramon, Dr. Emeterio M.D., Miguel Sr., Jorge and Benjamin; in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchild and other relatives request their friends to continue to remember him in their prayers.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Mommy."

IMELDA GONZALEZ CANCIO

Has peacefully joined her Creator on May 5, 2002
 at the age of 74.

Her loving husband Agustin Aquino Cancio; children Charo & Berty, Jackie & Boy, Sylvia, Gerry & Joy, Vicki, Billy & Dina, Mark & Maricita, Karen & Patrick and Tony; grandchildren; her sisters and their spouses Violeta & Johnny Galvez, Nena & Enrique Belo, Leticia de Padua; her in-laws Herminia Cancio Layug, Virgilio & Sylvia Yuzon, Manette & Danny Cortes and Maria Yuzon Brown; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

She will be laid to rest at the Garden of the Risen Christ, St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Magallanes, Makati City, after the 2:00 PM Mass on Wednesday, May 8, at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation for the education of the youth will be deeply appreciated.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

ISABEL CRUZ FELICIANO

of San Miguel, Bulacan

who passed away on April 28, 2002

would like to thank all those who consoled
 with us during our time of bereavement.
 Compliments of Funeraria Tuason.

*"...absent with the body
 to be present with
 the Lord"* 2 Corinthians 5:8

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts...

In Loving Memory

ON THE NINTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

LILIA CABATINGAN RELAMPAGOS

of Cebu City

November 8, 1925 - May 7, 1993

Beloved wife of the late Jesus Morastil Relampagos

Holy Masses will be offered today, Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at the following:

Della Strada Church (Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City) 6:00 AM
 Imus Cathedral (Imus, Cavite) 6:00 AM
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy (Hillsborough, Alabang) 6:00 AM
 St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susanna Parish (Alabang) 12:15 PM
 Our Lady of La Paz Parish (Brgy. La Paz, Makati City) 6:00 PM
 Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal National Shrine (Sucat, Muntinlupa) 6:00 PM
 Parish Church of the Resurrection (BF Homes, Parañaque) 6:30 PM
 St. James the Great Parish (Ayala Alabang Village) 6:30 PM
 Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel (Greenbelt, Makati) 7:00 PM
 Alliance of Two Hearts Parish (Horseshoe Drive, Banawa, Cebu City) 6:00 AM
 Basilica del Sto. Niño de Cebu (Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City) 6:00 AM
 Redemptorist Church (Don Ramon Aboltiz Street, Cebu City) 6:00 AM
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish (N. Escario Street, Cebu City) 6:30 AM
 Sto. Rosario Parish (P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City) 7:00 AM
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Guadalupe, Cebu City) 5:30 PM
 University of San Carlos Chapel (P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City) 5:30 PM
 Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral (P. Burgos Street, Cebu City) 6:00 PM
 Sacred Heart Church (D. Jakosalem Street, Cebu City) 6:00 PM
 Our Lady of Light Parish (Poblacion, Loon, Bohol) 6:00 AM
 St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral (Tagbilaran City, Bohol) 12:00 PM
 Church of the Holy Redeemer (Bangkok, Thailand) 8:00 AM
 Good Shepherd Parish (Gold Coast Drive, San Diego, CA) 5:30 PM

Her children: Elizabeth Anne & Wilfred Rida; Stephen George and Marites; Eloise Annette and Rommel Bolivar; and Ethel Angelle; and grandchildren: Emerald Anne, Christel Ann, Juan Paolo Jesus, and Jose Rafael Rida; Gian Paolo, Stephanie Marie, Nicola Liane, and Miguel Alfonso Relampagos; and Melissa Marie Bolivar; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember LILIA in their prayers.

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting
 tribute to your departed loved one.*

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In Loving Memory of
the 12th Death Anniversary

of

(Ret.) Major Hermito P. Herrera

of BF Executive West and Pilar, Bataan

Masses will be held at the following churches:

Nstra. Sra. del Pilar, Pilar, Bataan 5:45 AM
 Parish of the Resurrection, BF, Parañaque 6:30 PM
 Our Lady of the Pillar Parish, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City 6:00 PM
 Jesus the Divine Heart Parish, Tahanan Village, Parañaque 6:00 AM

The pious readers are requested to pray
 for the eternal repose of his soul.

PUBLIC APOLOGY

We wish to convey to the family of the late PANTALEONA M. LANSANG our sincerest apology for the anxiety and discontentment they suffered during the interment services rendered last April 21, 2002.

So sorry.

The Management

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**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever
 loses his life for my sake will find it.** Matthew 10:39

BUSINESS

CONCEPCION FORECAST

Prices seen stable despite fuel hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion said yesterday prices of basic commodities, transport fares and power rates should remain stable despite an expected 56-centavo-per-liter increase in petroleum prices this month.

Concepcion, chair of Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said in a news conference that average Dubai crude prices rose to \$24.51

in April from \$22.96 in March.

He also said the peso strengthened by 9 centavos from 51.06 to a dollar in March to 51.15 last month.

"That is why we see an increase in oil prices of 53 centavos per liter," Concepcion said. "We add to that the three centavos the oil firms did not recover in April."

Pump prices were expected to increase by 90 centavos a liter last month, he said.

Local oil companies actually raised their prices in installments by a total of 87 centavos per liter in April.

But the oil firms said they were trying to recover about P1.35 a liter instead of only 90 centavos, which meant they would add 48 centavos to whatever increases there would be for May.

"I think the oil firms can raise prices in two tranches, but these should not add up to more than 56 centavos per liter," Concepcion said.

and Industry, which showed that:

On the other hand, he said there was no expected increase in transport fares, shipping rates and hauling charges, as these sectors did not roll back their rates last year when oil prices dropped.

"Prices of basic commodities will also (remain at present levels) this month," Concepcion said.

He quoted a pricing survey made by the Department of Trade

and Industry, which showed that:

- prices of evaporated milk, powdered milk, instant coffee re-fill, dressed chicken, refined sugar, brown sugar and cooking oil (lapad) were lower than their prices in September last year.

- prices of ordinary rice, sardines, detergent bar, pork liempo, cooking oil (long neck) showed minimal increase.

"Electricity rates from Manila Electric Co. and other utilities are not expected to increase this

month because the currency exchange rate adjustment, or Cera, will be lower given the appreciation of the peso," he said.

The Cera is a component of the power utilities' monthly billing, which automatically changes given fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

The industrialist also noted that the Energy Regulatory Commission had yet to act on Meralco's and the other utilities' petitions for higher power rates.

Washington tags RP as notorious IPR bootlegger

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE US Trade Representative has lumped the Philippines with Indonesia and Taiwan as among Asia's notorious bootleggers of American software, movies, music and books.

Based on its annual "Special 301" report released on April 30, the USTR placed the Philippines, Indonesia and Taiwan in its priority watch list due to "persistent, serious problems with intellectual property protection."

Although a priority watch list status does not automatically entail US sanctions, the Philippines' inclusion means closer monitoring by the USTR to determine whether further actions by Washington is necessary.

This will be the second year that the Philippines has been placed on a priority watch list despite increased efforts by the government to tighten its laws on protecting intellectual property rights.

The USTR said while Washington welcomed the Macapagal administration's strong commitment to tackle IPR issues and the Philippine Supreme Court's ruling allowing ex parte search warrants, "there remain many obstacles to the effective enforcement of IPR in the Philippines, including the low number of raids, insufficiently trained prosecutors and procedural and judicial delays."

Garments exports fall as US buyers change suppliers

GARMENTS and textile exports plunged sharply in the first four months of the year as shipments to the United States—the country's single biggest market—were cut by nearly a quarter as American buyers shifted to low-cost producers of apparel and fabrics.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports hit \$805.987 million from January to April this year from \$982.908 million during the same period a year ago.

Exports to quota countries—the United States, Canada and Europe—tumbled 21 percent to \$689.8 million in the first four months of the year from \$869.774 million in the same period last year.

This was partially offset by a modest gain in exports to non-quota countries, including the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, which rose 2.7 percent to \$11.186 million in the first four months of the year from \$113.133 million a year earlier.

Sales to the United States, which accounted for 72 percent of total exports, dropped 23 percent to \$577.704 million.

Palay, corn output seen stagnant due to early dry spell

By Christine A. Gaylican

PALAY and corn production will barely grow in the first half of the year due to an early dry spell and some irrigation problems, the Department of Agriculture has disclosed.

"A long dry spell and some ongoing rehabilitation of irrigation canals hampered plantings in most areas of the country, which led to a possible reduction in the area for harvest, especially in the second quarter, for palay and corn," Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor disclosed in a news briefing yesterday.

The Bureau of Agriculture Statistics expects corn production to hit 972 metric tons in the first six months of the year, up by only 0.5 percent from 966 MT in the same period last year.

Likewise, palay production will reach 1.752 million MT from 1.729 million MT in the same period year-on-year.

This year's dry season crop is seen reaching 8.006 million metric tons by September, up from 7.923 million MT in the same period last year.

Among the areas hit by the dry spell are the Ilocos provinces, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Cagayan Valley and Sultan Kudarat, Montemayor said.

The agriculture department is seriously considering declaring these provinces as "calamity areas," he said.



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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@pdi.com.ph

LIFESTYLE *fitness*
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Mapulang butlig sa mukha?
Mukhang pimple 'yan!
Huwag nang patagalin,
ang unang gawin, mag-

DERMALIN

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Menthol, Cetyl Alcohol

You don't have to gain weight when you stop smoking

YOU may have read that the daughter of comedienne Carol Burnett died of lung cancer about two months ago. She was 38 years old. A reader told me this is what made her decide to quit smoking. Well, actually, it's a bit more complicated than that.

She said the death of Burnett's daughter hit home because they are the same age. She started to imagine what would happen to her family if she also died of lung cancer. She realized that her husband would be so lonely he would probably hook up with the first available woman who would pay attention to him. Then, she said to herself, what if this woman was like one of those Mexican telenovela villainesses—manipulative, greedy, deceitful and selfish?

WELL AND GOOD



Tina Juan

She began to visualize this woman making her kids miserable, ordering her household help around, spending all her husband's money and even neglecting her plants (she loves gardening). Before she knew it, she could picture the woman wearing her clothes, sleeping in her bed and using her jewelry. She says every time she is tempted to smoke, she visualizes this woman enjoying the life that was once hers.

However, she said that despite this powerful motivational tool, she is scared she might go back to smoking if she gains weight. She said, "I know it sounds petty compared to leaving my kids motherless, but I can't help it. I know that gaining weight will drive me to smoke again."

This reader is not alone. Many people are so worried about the weight they will gain if they quit smoking that they never even try. Women and teenage girls are especially vulnerable.

Why you gain weight

If you have quit smoking before, you know from experience that food tastes and smells better compared to when you were smoking. This makes sense since your mouth is no longer an ashtray. But a better sense of taste and smell is not the only reason why ex-smokers gain weight. One other reason is that nicotine suppresses the appetite, and when you stop smoking, your appetite returns to what it used to be.

You also tend to eat more to make up for feelings of anxiety, nervousness or irritability due to the nicotine withdrawals. Women in particular report a craving for sweets.

To make matters worse, scientists have discovered that smoking a pack a day increases your metabolism by approximately 10 percent. Of course, the way nicotine does this is not very healthy. Nicotine increases metabolism by narrowing blood vessels, which leads to an increased heart rate and blood pressure. But unhealthy or not, the fact remains that when the smoker stops smoking, his/her metabolism returns to its normal rate.

Before this scares you into never quitting cigarettes, you must realize that the average weight gain is only 5 pounds, according to a 1996 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Woman's Association.

But if you exercise and cut back on unnecessary calories (like junk food, rich desserts, fast food, soft drinks, etc.), quitting cigarettes doesn't have to be synonymous with gaining weight.

Exercise

Exercise is an obvious solution to the weight gain that occurs after a person quits smoking since it uses up excess calories that used to be burned off by the nicotine-influenced raise in metabolic rate. Both aerobic and resistance (lifting weights) exercise are effective.

Besides, exercise does more than burn calories. It counteracts much of the damage done by nicotine. For example, smoking raises blood pressure but regular exercise normalizes it. Smoking increases the build-up of cholesterol plaque in the arteries but exercise helps to keep arteries "clean."

Exercise can also alleviate some of the symptoms of nicotine withdrawal such as anxiety, stress and depression.

If you have been smoking for a number of years, it is wise to see your doctor first before starting an exercise program. Expect to start by exercising at a low intensity because of shortness in breath. I hope that instead of discouraging you, this will make you realize how badly smoking has affected your breathing capacity. You need to be patient and build up your stamina before you can truly appreciate the full calorie-burning benefits of exercise.

But regular exercise is only half of the solution to prevent weight gain when you quit smoking. The other half is what you eat.

Eat right

The worst thing to do is go on a very low calorie "fad" diet. Many ex-smokers do this out of fear of gaining weight. This is not an effective method because self-starvation not only makes the moodiness and irritation already present from nicotine withdrawal

YOU p.2

Nicotine suppresses one's appetite; when you quit the habit, your appetite returns to what it used to be

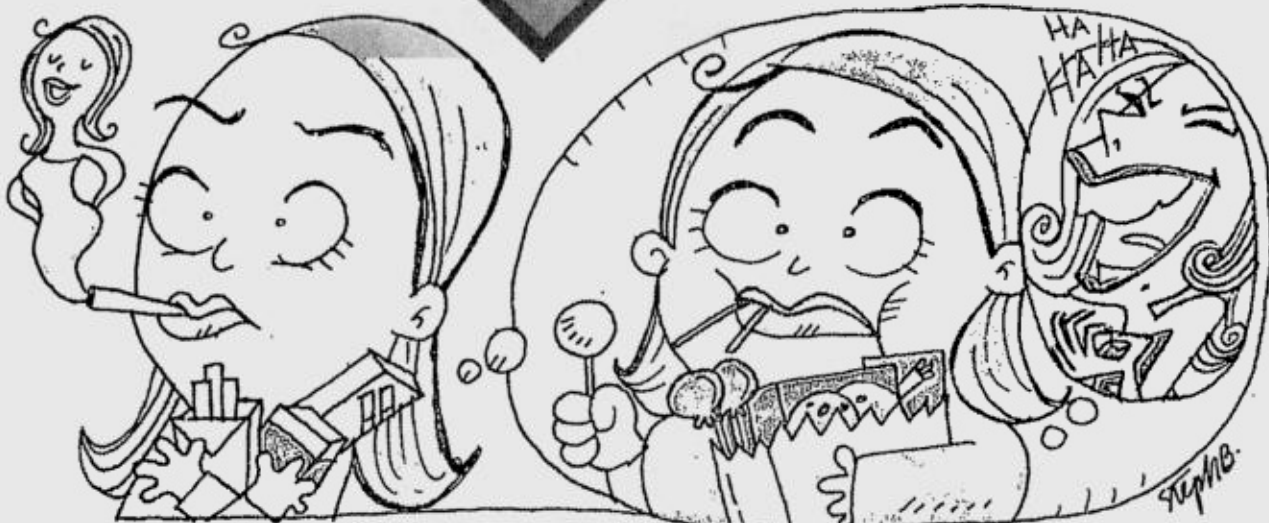


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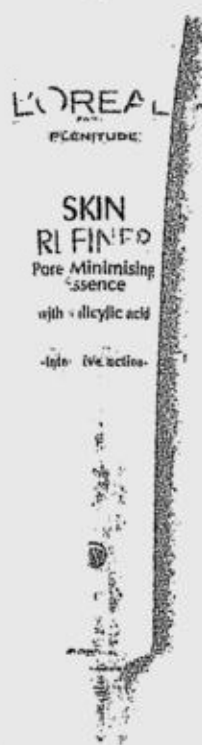
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Michèle Reis - Actress



FITNESS columnist Tina Juan broadens her reach with a daily TV health and fitness show.

Television gains an expert on healthy lifestyle choices

Tired of fad diets and exercise gadgets that never seem to work? Do you lack energy and are you depressed because you still can't fit into that swimsuit? Are you having a hard time getting fit and staying healthy?

The answer to your problems is here. Just tune in to Studio 23 from 6 to 6:30 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, and watch "In Fitness and in Health with Tina Juan." Tina Juan is a certified fitness expert with 13 years experience in the field. She has helped many people along the road to fitness and health through her regular TV appearances, her column Well and Good in this section and her website www.tinajuanfitness.com.

"In Fitness and in Health" is the only program of its kind on Philippine television because Tina won't just show you the latest exercise moves, she'll also give you advice on eating right and making healthy lifestyle choices. Her focus is not just in developing the physical body, but in helping you achieve mental and emotional well-being.

So get a boost of energy, a dose of health info and fresh ideas that will inspire you on your journey to fitness and health. Make this your daily morning habit only on Studio 23.

Here's a peek at some of the segments that you can expect.

With a little help from the expert—A step-by-step demonstration of a single exercise technique, complete with graphic illustrations of what muscles are used, how many calories are burned and what "problem area" is targeted. How do you know if your "crunch" is effective? What exercise works best for the arms? Tina shows you how to do it right!

Tina in motion—Tina shows a series of simple exercise techniques that can be followed by just about anyone. Viewers will get a variety of exercises from kickboxing to yoga to weight lifting to stretching and more. (Daily)

Journey to health and fitness—From fat to fit! From lazy to athletic! From depression and self-loathing to happiness and fulfillment. It's not as easy as 1-2-3. Be inspired by the courageous stories of people who struggled and overcame the odds to achieve health and fitness. Featured guests give a personal account of how they made the choice to change their lives and achieve physical, mental and emotional well-being. This is not just a journey of the body, but also a journey of the spirit. (Monday and Friday)

You are what you eat—How many calories are there in a chocolate bar? What's a balanced diet? Food is the fuel for the body, yet many of us

have unhealthy eating habits and we don't even know it. Tina gives us the dos and don'ts on healthy eating. (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

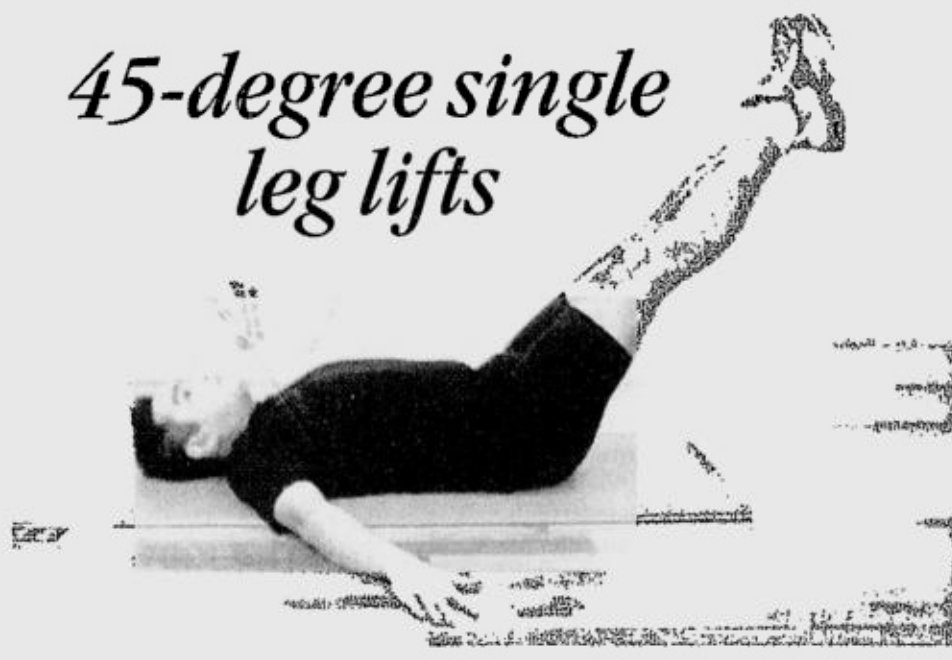
Health memo—Tina brings the latest health and fitness updates from here and abroad. This daily segment highlights various scientific breakthroughs and information from health journals that are not readily available to the Filipino audience. (Daily)

Diet and exercise controversies—Diet pills, exercise gadgets and the latest quick fix solution for a "sexier" and "stronger" you. Do they really work? The road to health and fitness can be dangerous, especially if you aren't armed with the right information. But you no longer need to gamble with your health as Tina gets to the bottom of those controversies. (Tuesday and Thursday)

Lose weight the right way—Losing weight is the primary concern of almost everyone, and every day we are bombarded with news and advertisements on how to achieve this elusive dream. Most of the time many of these "quick-weight-loss-schemes" fail and are unsafe. But you can achieve the impossible. You can lose those unwanted pounds and be healthy and fit in the process. Tina will show the way. (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

45-degree single leg lifts



STRENGTHENS abdominal muscles

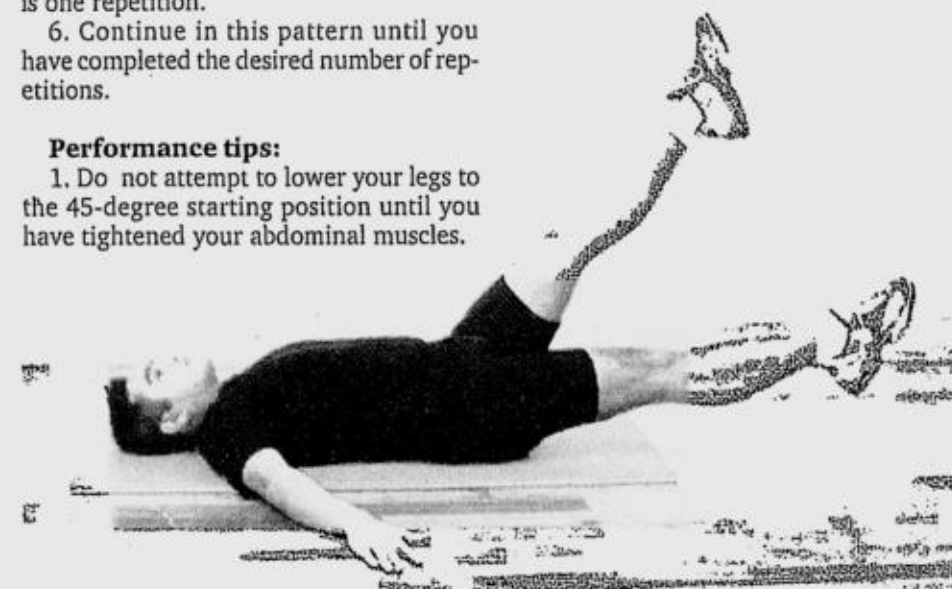
Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down on the exercise mat with your arms extended beside you.
2. Bring your knees directly above your hips. Extend both legs straight up.
3. Tighten abdominal muscles as you slowly lower your legs to a 45-degree angle. This is your starting position.
4. Continue to maintain the tightness in your abdominal muscles as you slowly lower one toward the floor.
5. Bring your leg back to starting position and repeat with the opposite leg. This is one repetition.
6. Continue in this pattern until you have completed the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Do not attempt to lower your legs to the 45-degree starting position until you have tightened your abdominal muscles.



2. Keep your abdominals tight to maintain balance and control all throughout the exercise.

3. If you feel your lower back arching off the floor, take a rest. This means your muscles are fatigued.

4. To modify this exercise, keep your legs directly over your hips as starting position. Lower your legs one by one to the 45-degree position.

5. If this bothers your lower back in any way, don't do the exercise. This is an advanced exercise and should not be attempted by beginners.

Repetitions:

Eight to 10 repetitions. Rest. Do one or two more sets if you want to.

You don't have to gain weight when you stop smoking

From page C1

worse, but it makes your metabolic rate drop even more. Every time the body senses a severe restriction in calories, a survival mechanism called the "starvation response" is set into motion. The body will lower the metabolic rate in an effort to conserve calories.

Diet advice for ex-smokers hoping to avoid weight gain is the same advice for everyone else. Eat healthy. Eat whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean meats and low-fat dairy products. Eat less high fat and high sugar foods.

There is no question that nicotine is one of the most addictive drugs. It is on the same level as cocaine and heroin in terms of addiction. This is because it affects dopamine, a brain chemical associated with "feeling good."

So if you have taken the first step by deciding to quit smoking, more power to you. You have a difficult but not impossible road ahead of you. Protect yourself against failure by exercising and eating right. Don't make weight

gain the reason you will enslave yourself again to the nicotine demon.

THE SPORTS Medicine Association of the Phils. (SMAP) will hold its 11th annual convention, "Global Trends and Local Issues in Sports," on May 17 and 18 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita. Call 521-9123 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com.

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) exam will be held on July 27. To prepare, participants are encouraged to join the Basic Instructor Course and/or ACE Review Course by the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. (AFFP). Classes start on May 16. Call Doris at 850-7647.

Watch "In Fitness and In Health" on Studio 23, Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com



Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.



Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOKA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently-asked questions)

Our company recently chose MEDICard to handle our health needs. With our program, we are allowed to enroll dependents. I am not so familiar with this, who can I enroll as my dependent and up to what age?

Generally, dependents are immediate family members. Based on our standard HMO program, the eligibility of dependents for enrollment is based on the employee's marital status. For married employees, dependents eligible for enrollment are the legal spouse, from 18 up to 60 years of age followed by the children above 90 days up to 21 years of age. For single employees, eligible dependents are the parents up to age 60, followed by brothers and sisters above 90 days up to 21 years of age. The enrollment of dependents must follow a hierarchy that is, the spouse first must be enrolled followed by the eldest child and so forth. The age limit may also vary subject to those negotiated by your company.

Meet your MEDICard Team



Dr. Edward De Castro Oliveros has been a member of MEDICard's top-notch medical professionals for more than 3 years now. He is a graduate of Medicine from FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation. He took his residency training for his specialization in General Surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center and his subspecialization residency in Laparoscopic Surgery from the Mayo Clinic, USA. He is a proud member of the Philippine Medical Association and a Fellow to the Philippine Society of General Surgeons. For your consultation needs, you may visit Dr. Oliveros at the Philippine Heart Center, Mondays to Fridays from 5 to 6 in the evening.



Dr. Cesar Cipriano De Leon Dimayuga is MEDICard's accredited medical service provider based in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). Dr. Dimayuga is a Medicine graduate from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in Orthopedics, with residency training at UP-PGH. Doc Cesar also subspecializes in Orthopedic Oncology, where he received his training at the University Hospitals of Cleveland-Case Western Reserve University. Doc Dimayuga is married to Dermatologist Mary Elizabeth, with whom he has two children. For your consultations, you may visit him at room 407 of the Medico Bldg. of MCGH every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 to 11 in the morning.



MEDICard's accredited specialist at Lipa Medix Medical Center in Batangas is Dr. Dennis Linatoc Atienza. Dr. Atienza, who has been in the practice of his profession for almost 10 years, finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. He earned his residency training for his specialization in General Surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center. Doc Dennis is married to Ma. Socorro Atienza, a Dentist, and has been blessed with 4 children. Outside his clinical practice, he becomes a bowling and golf enthusiast and is fond collecting antiques. Visit him for your consultation needs at Lipa Medix Medical Center from Mondays to Fridays, 9 AM to 12 noon and again from 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOKA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

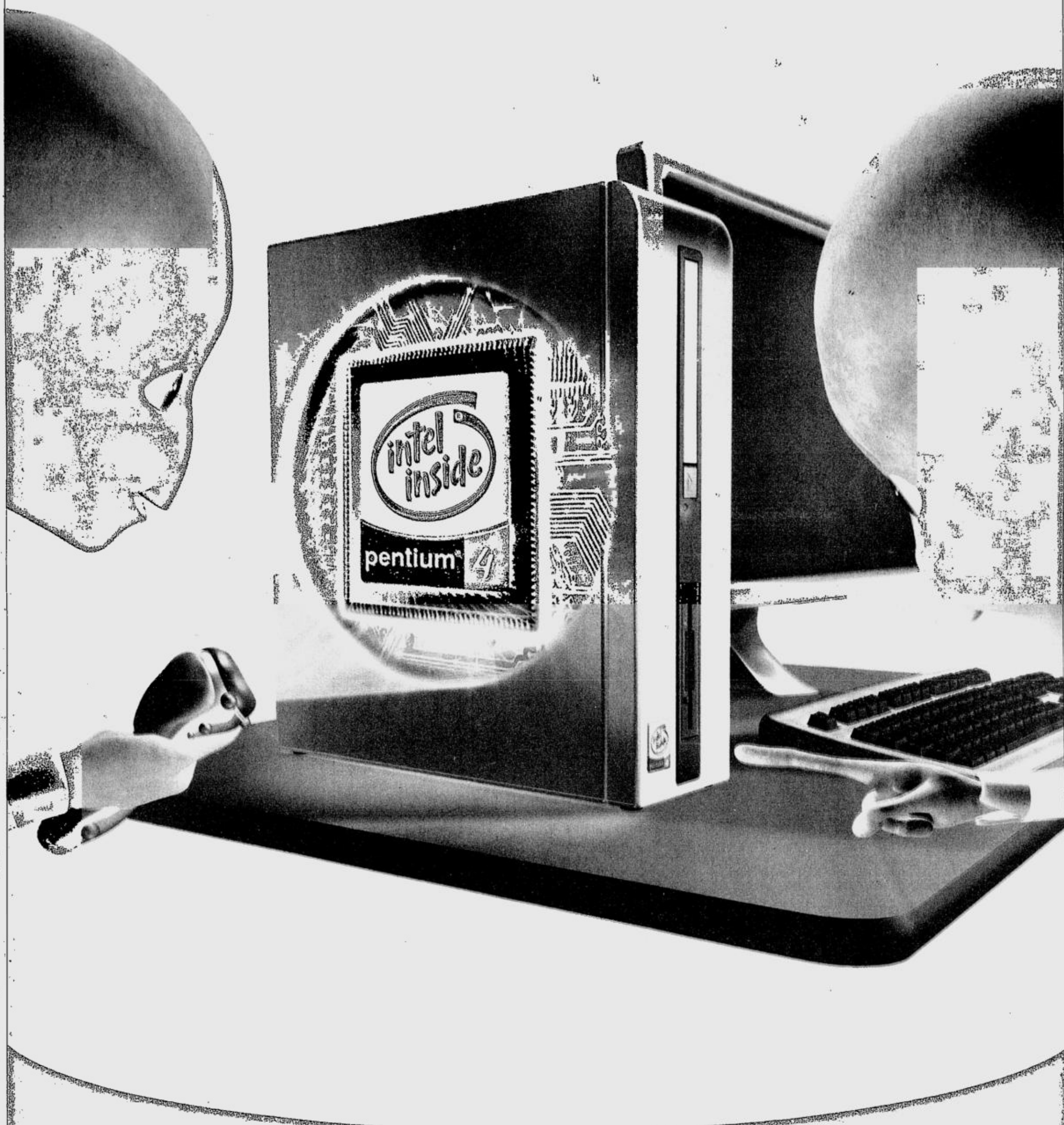
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HEALTH CLUB AT EASTWOOD

World-renowned health club chain, Fitness First, has opened a new branch at G/F Techno Plaza One, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Addressing the health and fitness concerns of residents and professionals based in Eastwood City and nearby communities, Fitness First offers modern facilities and perks for its members. It boasts of close to 20,000 sq ft of fitness equipment and features topnotch facilities such as sauna and steam rooms, changing rooms and a video library. The newest Fitness First branch also offers premium services such as beauty and massage treatments, personal training and group exercise classes in cycling, body pump, body combat, step classes, Pilates and yoga.

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8 ways to newness without really trying

SOMEONE once said that "You don't have to be great to do something, but you have to do something in order to be great."

In the pursuit of self-fulfillment, what drives people to achieve a goal, pursue a dream, fulfill a mission is also the very same force that can deplete one's energy and compromise one's health and well-being, if pushed to the extreme. It is called stress. When one's reserves are down, chances are, the immune system is weakened, laying the groundwork for the onset of illness.

Most health practitioners agree that the main reason people get sick is because they do not know when to stop pushing themselves, bodies and minds beyond their limits. For the benefit of all driven individuals, here is an eight-point guide to unwinding by adopting newness in your life. Some suggestions are so simple. But then again, the simplest tasks maybe the hardest to do since old habits die hard. Studies have shown that when you teach yourself a new skill, or break a pattern in your life, as in changing a habit, this very act stimu-

INSIDE OUT



Cory Quirino

When you teach yourself a new skill or break a pattern in your life, it stimulates your brain to function more efficiently

lates the brain to function more efficiently thereby challenging it to function in a new way.

- Change your routine. Sometimes, breaking your usual patterns and habits can also change your attitude and outlook. For example, if you are used to wearing blue on Mondays, wear green or yellow. If you are used to wearing your favorite necktie once a week, don't wear it for a month. Find another to replace it. If you usually sleep on the right side of the bed or part your hair a certain way, change it.
- Read a new book—one that is completely

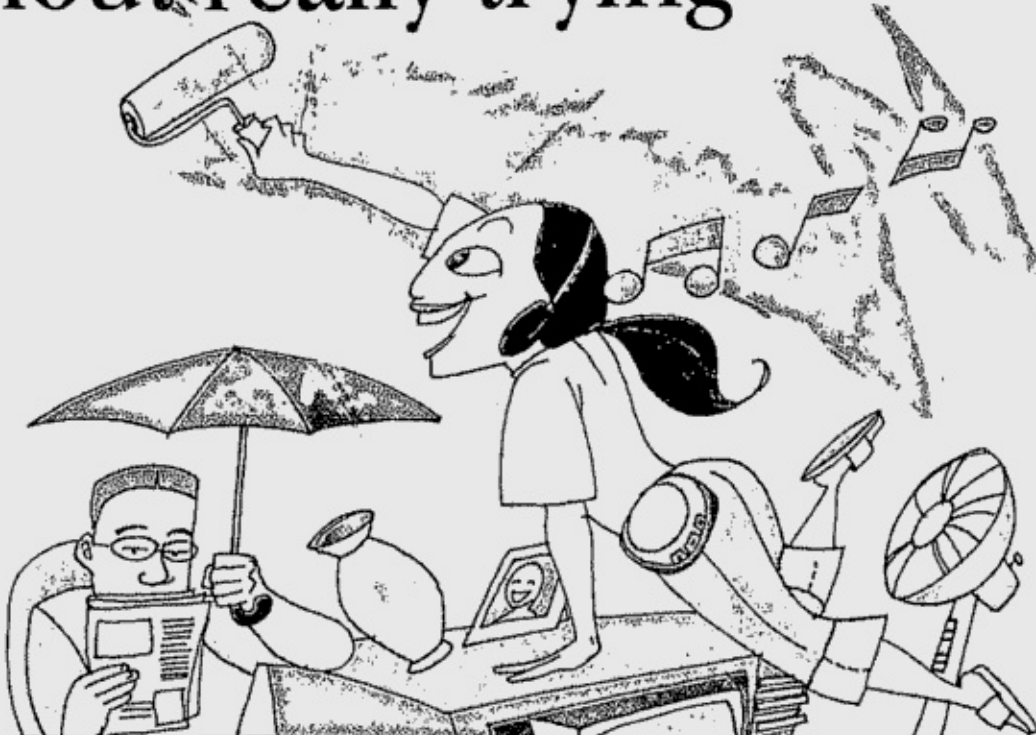


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

different from your usual choice. If you like history, try poetry or science fiction. You'll be surprised how much stimulation you will find in reading about something totally alien to your world.

- Listen to a different kind of music. If you prefer classical, why not rhythm and blues this time? You will find that your ear will be more receptive.

- Try a different cuisine. If you go strictly Chinese, why not Indian or Mexican? Your palate will definitely derive delight from this exercise.

- Make new friends. Your usual circle of friends is great but you can also expand your circle to welcome new energies in your life. Who knows what positive changes you can invite when you make a new friend?

- Change your look. For women and men, this means a makeover from head to toe. A hairdresser can make suggestions as to the latest hairstyles. A fashion designer can introduce a new outfit in your wardrobe. And any friendly gay-friend who is artistically inclined can give his/her colorful opinion.

- Paint your house the color of your new outlook. Don't be afraid to project your mood onto your walls. It can be therapeutic.

- Change your vocabulary. There are words or expressions that you can drop or change. Expletives should be the first to go. Replace them with respectable talk.

Inviting newness

Light a white candle on your altar. Make a wish—something that you want for yourself. It has to be something positive with harm to none. Imagine this wish is already yours. Then give thanks.

It is a fact that our cells regenerate every day. Old cells die and are replaced by new cells. Give your body a re-charging boost with this tonic.

Mix two big carrots and one large apple in a juicer. Drink it first thing in the morning. This old-time favorite ought to bring a blush to your skin and zap you with energy for the day.

Apple-Carrot Wash

With the exfoliant properties of these ingredients, you can splash your face with this juice mixture as a skin tonic. Then wash with cold water.

Newness is a good thing. While most people may be afraid of change, only the brave and adventurous can introduce newness to their lives. But one can always start with little things, right?

A little newness, a little more excitement in your life can only be good for you.

Love and light!

Quirino's book launch highlights fitness and health fair

TV HOST, civic leader and best-selling author Cory Quirino reaches out to countless men and women of all ages and walks of life with her latest edition of "Forever Young: Cory Quirino's Guide to Beauty and Wellness."

The book launch at 5:30-7 p.m. on May 11 will be the highlight of a fitness and health fair dubbed "Forever Young—Body and Soul: The Event" at the Power Plant in Rockwell on May 11 and 12. Activities include aerobics fun match (10 a.m., May 11, free T-shirts and no registration fee), classes in yoga, Pilates, healthy heart cooking, Pranik healing orientation, free beauty makeover and facials and skin-care and body-care consultations, health talks by noted speakers on weight loss and hormone health, Latin dance workout. There will be special appearances by PBA Champions Shark, Alma Concepcion, Plinky Recto, Poncy Quirino, Salsa Fuego, Becky Garcia and The National Latin Dance Champions, The Philippine Body Builders Association, Dr. Joel Mendez and Dr. Victor Vesuna.

Taking off from her first bestseller, which covered a wide range of health and beauty advice, a more mature Quirino presents a serene outlook on fitness and wellness which she defines as the mind/body connection. In her essay "The Healing Power of the Mind," Quirino writes, "If you believe it, you can become it. We learned since childhood that aging is inevitable. If we are aware of this, there is still time to replace 'old programming' from childhood with 'new programming.' You can stay young longer than you think you can. And if you are bold enough to believe it, you can delay the aging process and its symptoms by as much as 30 years."

Other highlights of the book are healthy eating as lifestyle, fit forever, herbal treatments for the body and graceful aging and a list of wellness centers in Metro Manila.

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CLUB Punta Fuego vice chair Ed Roxas, Joe Hagedorn Sr. and Ramon Garcia



GREEN Sleeves crew Johannes Cehethofer, Sutsep Chai Chanath and Claus Karthe, Nokia GM for Asia-Pacific



ANDY Soriano



ANDRES Soriano IV



DYAN Castillejo with ABS-CBN's Freddie Garcia

Back-to-back races attract top regional sailors

THE NORMALLY quiet, exclusive Punta Fuego, the beach residential development of Landco Pacific in Nasugbu, came alive with activity as Club Punta Fuego cohosted two parties for the international and local sailing set to award participants of the prestigious 21st China Sea Race and the Manila Yacht Club's President's Cup Regatta.

The China Sea Race, an international, ocean-racing event co-organized by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and the Manila Yacht Club, is considered one of the world's great offshore races that crosses the South China Sea from Hong Kong to the Philippines. It is run every other year and finished for the first time in Nasugbu, Batangas. On its 10th year, The President's Cup Regatta participants hurdled various racing challenges around Nasugbu Bay's scenic, rugged Batangas coastline and later traversed the seas from Nasugbu to Manila ending at Manila Bay.

The China Sea Race attracted boats from around the region, including two that came all the way from Australia—Australian Maid from Darwin and Helsal II from Melbourne. Some of the boats stayed on for the President's Cup Regatta. Well-known Hong Kong sail-maker Neil Pryde won the China Sea Race's coveted racing division with his boat Hi-Fidelity, while another Hong Kong boat, John Blay's Windseeker, won the cruising division. Roland Schmitt's Red Baron won in the performance cruising division. HK garment manufacturer, Sam Chan, whose labels Michel Rene, Hang Ten and Daniel Hechter, among others, is well-known to Filipino shoppers, came with his boat Ffree Fire, while another HK boat, Frank Pong's Jelik, has the distinction of being first across the finish line. Former CCN journalist, Eurasian beauty Janine Graham Barnes, was spotted walking around with son.

The President's Cup Regatta was a heartstopping race among the three most



STELLA'S Fred Kimmoth accepts award from Manila Yacht Club's Terry Razon

competitive and accomplished boats in the open racing class: Hong Kong boat Stella, owned by Fred Kimmoth, who emerged overall winner in the open racing class, Manila Yacht Club Commodore Ray Ordoveza's Karakoa landing second, and Neil Pryde's Hi-Fidelity coming in third.

Beginner's luck seemed to work for neophyte racer Claus Karthe, Nokia GM for Asia-Pacific and a major sponsor of the Regatta together with Smart. His boat, Green Sleeves, emerged overall winner in the cruiser class division. Ed Limon, president of Intex Telecom Systems and Nokia Philippines partner, joined the Regatta with his boat Lhayas.



VIVALDI'S Donnie Altura and Bong Recio

Architect Bong Recio, the other half of the Recio+Casas architectural tandem and architect of the club facilities of the new Landco Pacific/Roxaco Corp. Development Terrazas de Punta Fuego, was also a winner as crew of Donnie Altura's Vivaldi.

Defending champion in the cruiser racer division, Jo de Ros of George and Rainbow Hackett, successfully clinched the over-all No. 1 slot once again with Mari Imperial as one of the crew.

Andy Soriano's Maligaya won the Nasugbu to Manila race with Philip Hagedorn, Joe Hagedorn Jr., Angelo Olondriz, Miguel Picornell, Jojo Soriano, Cons Castaneda, Martin Marty and Monchu Garcia.



KARAKOA crew with owners, Manila Yacht Club Commodore Ray Ordoveza (standing from left) and wife Mayenn



NEIL Pryde, over-all racing class winner of the China Sea Race, and his crew accept the award from Mayenn Ordoveza.

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GRAY nylon tafetta basic jacket with matching nylon tafetta pants; orange graphic tee and adventure khaki shorts from New Balance



RED jersey tee and blue sweat pants from Puma; black sports bra tank top and long tights



Showcase of stylish sportswear

PLANET Sports, the one-stop lifestyle and sports shop, recently unveiled its Spring/Summer 2002 collection at a fashion show held at the Glorietta Mall.

Dubbed "Fashion Choices at Glorietta 3," the show gave fashionistas and clothes-conscious mallers a peek at the cornucopia of stylish and decidedly different fashion wear and apparel offered by retail stores at Glorietta 3.

Planet Sports came out strong with an upbeat presentation of its Puma, New Balance and Arena sportswear.

The Puma collection burst out first with summery outfits that deserve second and third looks. Aquamarine hooded shirts, loose jogging pants and futuristic rubber combined to give the brand some attitude with a capital A. A blue tank top, matching blue pants and pert Puma running shoes on a female model stole the show as she jiggled to Passage's dance-y rift and J.Lo's "I'm Real" number.

The New Balance collection mixed hot with cool. Bright neon orange tees with Oriental characters emblazoned on the chest were matched with cool khaki shorts and New Balance slip-ons

by Him. She sported an electric blue long-sleeved shirt and jogging pants, tipped off by calming gray New Balance running shoes.

But the most talked about part of the show was the unveiling of Planet Sports' Arena swimwear collection. Female models showed off new amazing swimsuits that sported Arena's exclusive Spiral technology as well as their terrific boas. One-piece suits and trunks lured the crowd to try the water. Arena offers constantly evolving swim gear for people who have adopted swimming into their lifestyles.

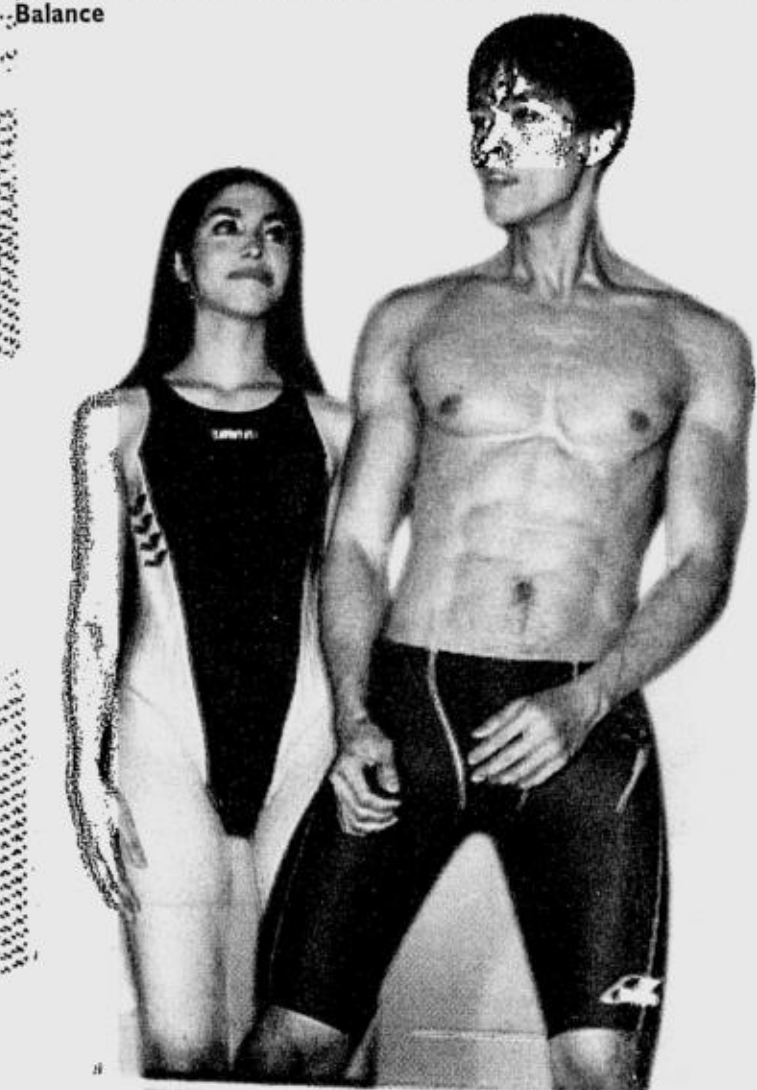
Planet Sports marketing manager Bhitzie Baquiran said Planet Sports caters to all who want sports to be their statement and way of life.

Arena, New Balance and Puma are Planet Sports' house brands. Many other well-loved sports brands from all over the world can be found at Planet Sports.

Planet Sports are located at 2/L Glorietta 3, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Pro-Shop, Festival Mall, Robinsons Pasig, Novaliches, Iloilo, Cebu, Los Baños and Pampanga, Ayala Center Cebu, LCC Naga, Metropoint Mall and Magic Mall Tarlac.

SWIM WORTHY

The Infinetex collection from Adidas features well-designed swimsuits, tops and trunks manufactured from specially engineered Infinetex fabric. Made of nylon and lycra materials that can endure prolonged use in chlorinated pool water, Infinetex results in longer-lasting fit, use and comfort, whether for competitive or leisure swimming. Now available at Adidas shops and leading department stores nationwide.



SOAK up the sun with Arena one-piece swimsuit (left) and half spats (right) which both feature the Arena Spiral technology

Athletic shoes with Italian flair launched

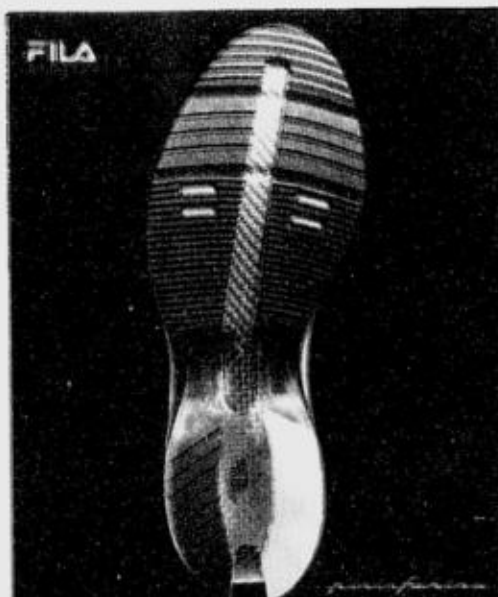
FILA has launched its latest line of cutting-edge shoes—Pininfarina.

The new line of athletic shoes, combining tradition with the most sophisticated and advanced aerodynamic technologies, was launched at Eat! in RCB Plaza.

Among those who attended were basketball star and Fila endorser Chris Jackson and Joey Mead. Both were wearing the latest ap-



THE LACING system in the Pininfarina's running shoe ensures a glove-like fit.



SPECIAL sole design

parel and accessories from Fila and Pininfarina shoes. Also there were Dindo Pumaren of FedEx, Elmer Lago of Talk 'n' Text and rookie Miguel Noble of Alaska.

Fila calls Pininfarina an important example of Italian style, with its unique and elegant design. The line's Single Frame is a new concept for a shoe's upper exterior. Extremely lightweight and tightly knit into a soft, mesh fabric, the lacing system in the Pininfarina's running shoe ensures a glove-like fit. The high-performance engine in the rear gives maximum aerodynamics and great protection. Elastic and resistant fibers absorb body weight and impact at the low heel spoiler and the shoe's suspension system.

The padding is a stack of lateral synthetic leather panels for easy fit.

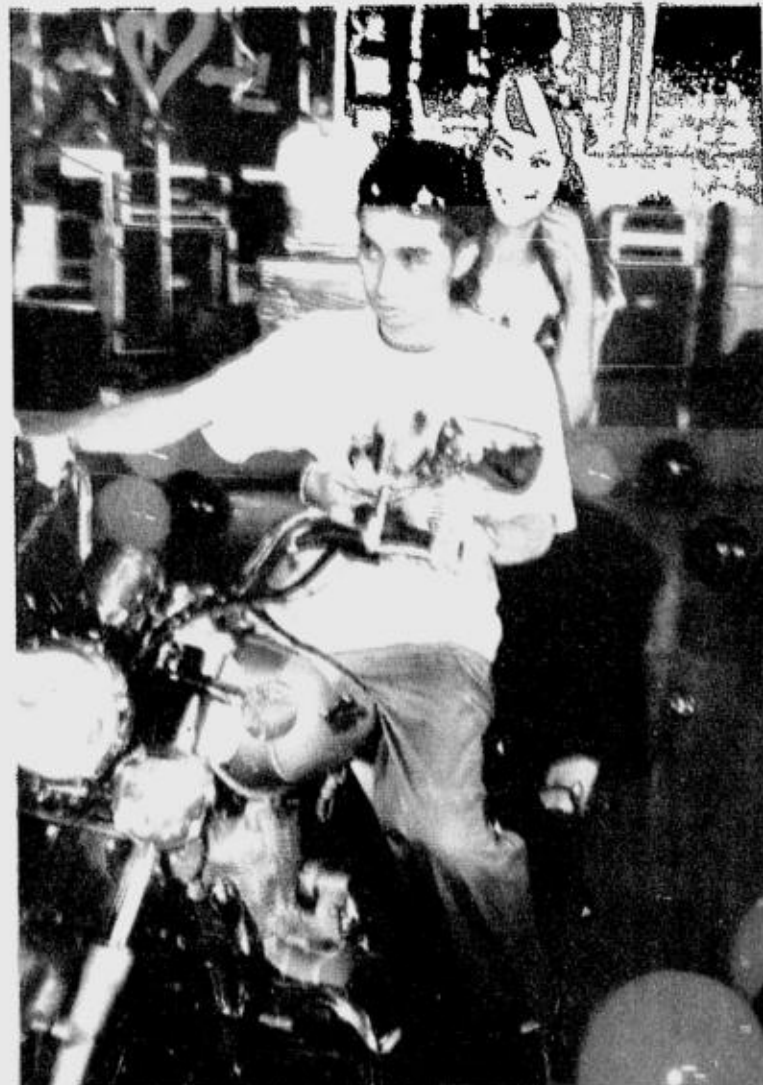
Soft fabrics manufactured limit slippage in the front and back, and help eliminate irritating movements. The solid and comfortable treads are perfect for every sort of surface. A special sole design supplies the runner with the correct mix of toehold and adhesion to any kind of surface regardless of weather conditions.

The launch featured a fashion show of Pininfarina with Fila's Apparel Collection.

Fila announced that MTV VJ Donita Rose and racecar superstar Michael Schumacher will be joining the Fila family as official endorsers. They will be launched in a grand event today at Venezia.



CRIS Albert poses beside Fila Pininfarina.



JOEY Mead in her Fila Spring-Summer 2002 collection makes a smooth entrance riding a sleek motorcycle.

Vision restoration workshop for kids

"MAGIC Eyes for Kids" is a workshop for children between 7 and 12 years old who will like to recover clear eyesight without the use of glasses. It teaches proven, easy-to-learn eye exercises that enable a child to regain 20/20 vision he or she once had.

Most people believe eyesight is a function of age. The older you get, the more your sight deteriorates. If this is true, why are so many children wearing glasses? The answer lies in the way they use their eyes.

The ever-increasing amount of reading and computer work children have to do nowadays creates tremendous eye strain. Continued eye strain weakens the vision. Glasses are prescribed. But while they enable a child to see more clearly, they are actually making the eyesight worse. That's because glasses act as kind of crutch—they do the focusing for you, which means that your eye muscles don't get used as much as they nominally would. Consequently, they become weaker and you eventually have to buy a new set of glasses with higher grade. This cycle repeats itself through adulthood until you can no longer see without glasses.

The workshop teaches proven, easy-to-learn exercises that enable your child to



LEO Angart with the second group of children and their parents who attended the "Magic Eyes for Kids" seminar on February

regain normal eyesight. It will also teach good eyesight habits so that your child can study without eyestrain. Spending 20 minutes a day practicing the exercises and habits will allow your child to see without glasses. And, more importantly, your child will have the know-how to keep his eyes healthy for the rest of his life.

"Magic Eyes for Kids" will be taught by Leo Angart on May 10 and 14, 9 a.m.-12 nn, at Martha's Vineyard Center, Estrella Street (at the end of Rockwell Drive), Makati City. Fee is P1,200 per child. One parent should accompany the child. No yayas, please. Call Monika V. Cruz of NLP Phils. Inc. at 890-6086 or e-mail maurice@i-manila.com.ph.

Forum on the elderly's sleep disorders

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Geriatric Center, with the section of psychiatry, holds its second lay forum for the year titled "Loloby... Loloby..." on May 10, 9 a.m.-12nn, at the 14th floor auditorium of St. Luke's Cathedral Heights Building Complex (CHBC). It will focus on sleep disorders among the elderly.

Invited experts are Dr. Emmanuel Gatchalian Sr., director emeritus of St. Luke's Geriatric Center, and Dr. Ruby Manalastas, section of psychiatry consultant.

For more information, call St. Luke's Geriatric Center at tel. 723-0301 locals 4119 and 7163.

DID you know that...

CHILDREN make up 47 percent of the Philippine population but they represent 100 percent of our future?

Courtesy of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television

How to remember dreams and other questions answered

I'D like to devote this column and the few succeeding ones to answering questions usually asked by readers.

Is there an exercise or method I can do to remember my dreams? With my frequent déjà vu incidents, I can't help but feel that something significant is going to happen in my life.

JASMIN

Yes, there is, and it is very simple. All of us dream every night, although some do not remember their dreams. According to American psychic researchers Stanley Krippner and Montague Ullmann, a normal human being dreams an average of 30 dreams in one evening. That's a lot of dreams, indeed!

To remember your dreams, all you have to do is to repeat the following statement over and over again until you fall asleep: "I will have a dream and I will remember my dream." For sure you will have a dream and remember it. You should keep a notebook and pencil ready in your bed to jot down your dream.

If what happens is the opposite of what you have visualized, does this mean it was done wrong, or does it mean what was desired is not meant to be? Would deliberately visualizing the opposite do the trick then? How does one reverse a visualization in the first place?

EDSEL

I have come across this question several times before. The only reason I can think of why the reverse of what was visualized takes place is that there must be a subconscious desire on your part not to fulfill what was visualized. Your subconscious mind is not doing what your conscious mind wants.

For visualization to be effective it must have the following elements:

- You must strongly desire the object of your visualization. You must believe in the process, and you must expect the results without any doubt at all.

- What you are visualizing must be very, very clear to you. You must be able to see, taste, smell, hear and touch it. The goal

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



must be stated in a very concrete, sensory rich manner.

- You must do the visualization in the alpha level of the brain waves, or in a deep meditative state of mind.

- You must perform the visualization twice a day at least 15 minutes each time.

- You must visualize the goal or end result you want and not how or the means to get it.

If you follow the above rules of effective visualization, you will get what you want. Remember my motto: "The mind has no limits, aside from those it accepts."

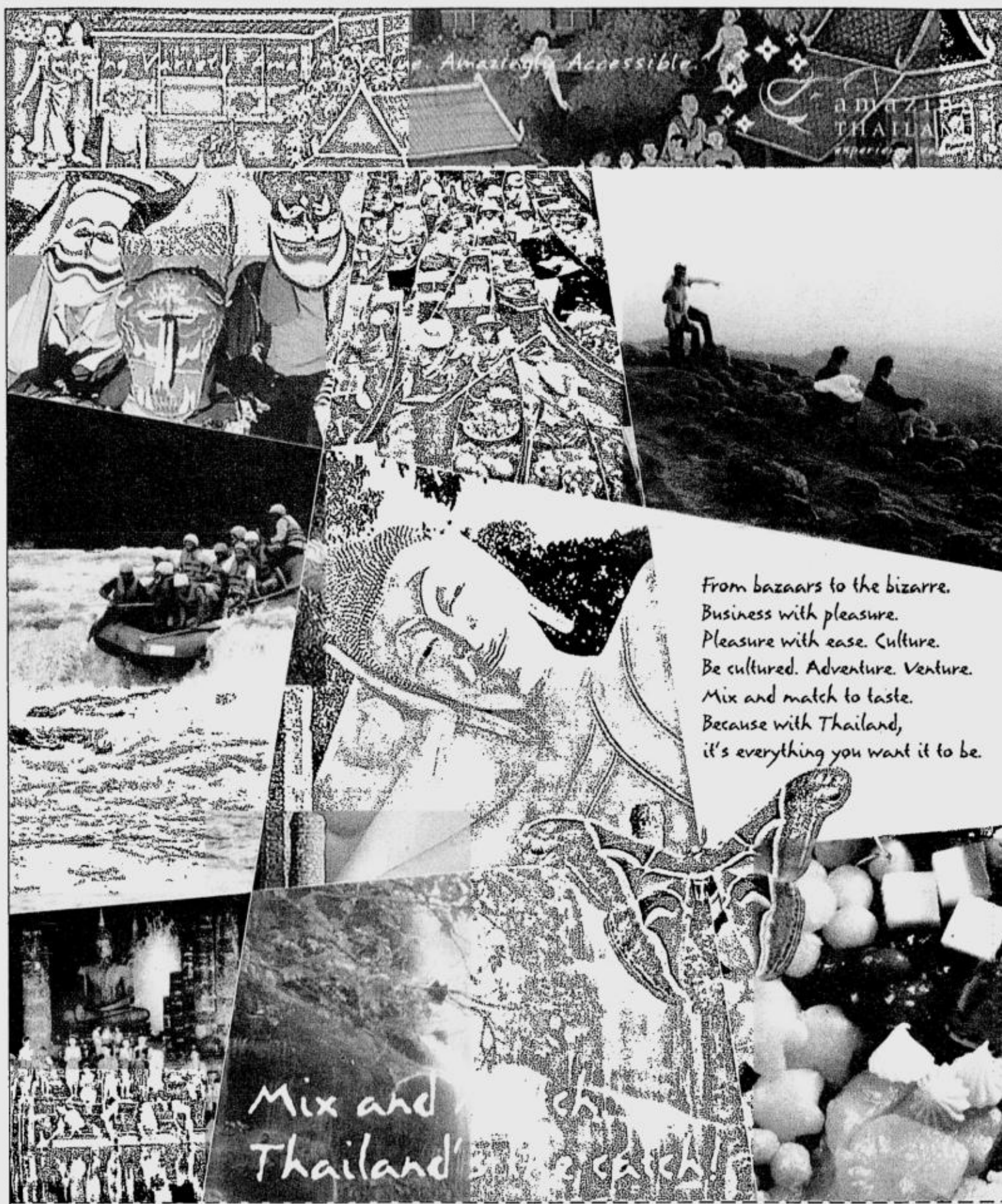
On Nov. 7, 2001 my friend died at 4 a.m. I visited him in the afternoon and saw his body. He was really dead. When I arrived home at 6:30 p.m., I had a missed call on my cell phone from him. No-body had used the cell phone of my dead friend. The next day, many of his friends reported missed calls from him. If this call really came from the dead, what did he use, brain power? Mind power?

CHARLES

He used mind power. His brain was already dead, remember? But the mind is a faculty of the soul and does not die.

Spirits of the newly departed have been reported to communicate now through cell phones, computers and other modern means of communication. There are many documented cases of these things occurring. The dead are still with us, especially immediately after death, until they ascend to the higher realms.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicaucó@geocities.com. Visit my new website at <http://j.licaucó.tripod.com>. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.



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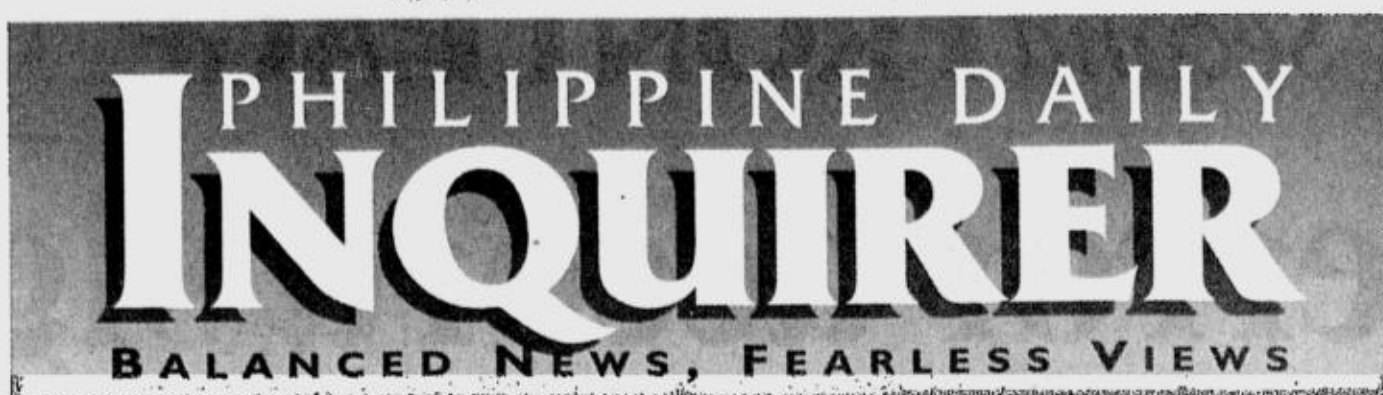


Deceased Filipino priest named in US sex scandal

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Wednesday, May 8, 2002 ★ 60 pages 5 sections 7 vol.17 no. 149 P15

Peso seen hitting 49.20 to the dollar

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN exchange traders said yesterday that they saw the peso hitting as high as 49.20 to the dollar this week after the local currency gained more ground to close at 49.64, its highest level since March 30 last year.

In an interview, Bangko Sentral ng
PESO/A20



THE FIRST day of a 3-day, 2-nation tour for President Macapagal begins with remarks at the 35th international general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council in Kuala Lumpur. (Story on Page A2.)

One in six RP kids has to work—NSO

ABOUT one in six children in the Philippines had to work to help support his or her family in the past year, and most of them labored without pay, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

Four million of the 25 million Filipino children aged 5 to 17, or 16 percent of the total, were "economically active," according to the survey covering Oct. 1, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2001.

This was almost unchanged from the figure recorded in a similar survey for 1994-1995.

Most of the working children were male, aged 10 to 17 years old.

Seven out of 10 children worked in
ONE/A20

Pinoy wins Sept. 11 coin design contest

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A 22-year-old computer graphics designer in this city has bagged the top prize for a Sept. 11 commemorative coin design contest online.

Ray Irwin Rubio, an instructor at the Genetic Computer Institute here, bested more than 30 participants worldwide in the contest conducted by US graph-
PINOY/A20

Convent admits 2 to 3 priests' victims yearly

By Armand N. Nocum

FROM two to three cases of women impregnated by priests are admitted every year to the Heart of Mary Villa in Malabon, run by the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS), according to its provincial superior, Sister Lydia Ebora.

But she qualified that such cases were not on the high side, comprising only about one percent of the total number of cases in 23 RGS institutions throughout the country.

Officials of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) headed by Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, chose
CONVENT/A21

Congress greed for pork slammed



EDWIN BACASMAS

THEY ALSO SERVE...

... The worthies who didn't make it AFP chief of staff but wait, anyway, to see off the commander in chief depart for Kuala Lumpur: From left, outgoing AFP chief, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva; Air Force chief, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor; Deputy Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya and AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio M. Camiling.

GLOOM AND DOOM

52% of respondents say life worse today

FILIPINOS are largely pessimistic over their short-term economic prospects, with more than half rating themselves as poor, according to an independent national survey released yesterday.

Fifty-two percent said their quality of life deteriorated over the past 12 months while 15 percent said it turned for the better, according to the Social

Weather Stations (SWS) poll of 1,200 adult respondents on March 4-23.

In a similar poll a year ago, 43 percent of the respondents said they were worse off and 17 percent said their circumstance had improved.

There was also a marked turn for the worse when the respondents were asked to rate their prospects for the next 12

months. Twenty-six percent were optimistic and 21 percent were pessimistic compared with 31 percent optimistic and 16 percent pessimistic a year ago.

Fifty-eight percent considered themselves poor, virtually unchanged from 59 percent a year ago.

But hunger went up for two consecu-
52%/A20

Lawmakers now call all the shots at DPWH

By Armand N. Nocum
and Juliet L. Javellana

PUBLIC works officials are complaining that members of Congress have cornered a big chunk of the government's infrastructure budget for the legislators' pork barrel projects.

"We no longer have control over infrastructure projects. We only implement (them). They have the final say on everything," said a Luzon-based regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways of the legislators.

Congressmen and senators now corner more than half of the DPWH infrastructure budget, up from the 10 to 30 percent of the previous years, according to the regional director.

For next year, the DPWH will be the implementing agency for a P34.8-billion infrastructure budget but members of the House of Representatives will identify the projects for their districts. Senators are also allowed to identify projects.

House members are now locked in a bitter fight over how the money will be spread nationwide.

But allowing legislators to identify infrastructure projects has made the DPWH "highly politicized" and graft prone, according to DPWH insiders.

"How can you have a credible bidding of projects when lawmakers have already expressed their preference for a particular contractor?" asked a DPWH undersecretary.

Pork barrel projects, especially infrastructure, are a source of kickbacks
CONGRESS/A20



WHAT SECRETS lurk behind the gates of this charity institution established to take care of unwed mothers, including those who had sexual relations with Catholic priests?
DENNIS SABANGAN

Deal reached to end 36-day standoff in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—The mayor of Bethlehem said Tuesday that a deal had been reached to end the 36-day standoff at the Church of the Nativity, with 13 of the suspected militants holed up in the shrine to be deported to Italy by the end of the day.

Israel said agreement was very close.

One of the top wanted men inside the church, built over Jesus' traditional birthplace, said he and the other 12 had agreed to go into exile.

Twenty-six other gunmen would be transferred from the besieged compound to the Gaza Strip, according to the wanted man, Abdullah Daoud, head of Palestinian intelligence in Bethlehem.

"If nothing goes wrong, I expect to be deported to Italy with my colleagues this afternoon," Daoud told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

But Franco Frattini, an Italian minister in charge of intelligence services, said a decision on taking in the deportees had

DEAL/A21



Joker-Edong word war over for now

By Carlito Pablo

"SESSIONS resumed with much relief."

Thus spoke Senate President Franklin Drilon as he banged the tabard after Senators Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara yesterday shook hands.

The cool cats on the session floor intervened as the back and forth of bitter words between the two senators the past week threatened to flare up
JOKER/A20

Filipino priest named in US sex scandal

LOS ANGELES—A Filipino priest, who is now deceased, has been implicated in the sexual abuse of a then 16-year-old girl who was aspiring to be a nun.

The Los Angeles Archdiocese urged the priest to stay out of the country—and mailed checks to him in the Philippines.

He was instructed not to reveal the source of the payments.

The disclosures contained in three letters constitute "stunning new evidence" for a woman who claims she was born as a result of her mother's sexual abuse by seven Catholic priests, including the Filipino, Father Santiago Tamayo, according to the woman's lawyer, Gloria Allred.

The woman, Jacqueline Milla, 19, called on Los Angeles

Cardinal Roger Mahony to help her in identifying her father.

Jacqueline and her mother Rita, who agreed to reveal their identities, made an emotional appeal to Mahony at a press conference held at Allred's office.

A spokesperson for Mahony, head of the US' largest Catholic archdiocese, said that recently released letters were not evi-

dence of a cover-up.

In three letters—dating from June 1984 to August 1988—Church officials advised Tamayo, who had relocated to the Philippines, not to reveal the source of the payments "unless requested under oath," noting that he was "liable for personal suits arising out of your

FILIPINO/A21

Second FRONT PAGE



Anti-terror accord signed



PRESIDENT Macapagal and Prime Minister Mahathir witness the signing of the agreement.

Gloria witnesses KL rites, then flies to Bangkok

By Rocky Nazareno

KUALA LUMPUR—Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines yesterday sealed a trilateral security pact in a bid to bolster cooperation to combat regional terror groups.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrived here yesterday for a six-hour visit, witnessed the signing ceremony with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the administrative capital of Putrajaya south of Kuala Lumpur.

The agreement was signed by Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda, his Malaysian counterpart Syed Hamid Albar and Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

The trilateral pact, proposed by the Philippines at the 7th Asean summit in Brunei in November 2001, would see intensified joint patrols and intelligence sharing aimed at curbing the movement of suspected terrorists across borders.

"This agreement will rally together our neighbors in Asean to jointly address border and security incidents, terrorism and transnational crimes and other illegal activities," Ms Macapagal said in a pre-departure speech in Manila.

Info exchange

Mahathir said the treaty was aimed at speeding intelligence exchanges between the three neighbors, which have all been troubled by Islamic extremists, some with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"I think it is useful, because we can exchange information about the movements and actions of these people," he told reporters.

Ms Macapagal was greeted at the Kuala Lumpur international airport by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

Her officials said her two-nation trip was to encourage investment and seek greater cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

She said she would take up the plight of illegal Filipino workers in Malaysia to ensure "the authorities there would be respectful of the human rights and welfare of undocumented workers in their deportation process."

In recent months, Malaysia has stepped up deporting illegal Filipino workers.

The President was whisked to a Kuala Lumpur hotel where she met officials of the Malaysia-Philippines Business Council and Malaysia's top bank, Malayan Banking, which has operations in Manila.

She delivered the keynote address at the general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, before going into talks with Mahathir.

She also witnessed the signing of a business agreement between the Philippine National Oil Co. and Malaysia's national oil firm, Petronas.

Protectionist barriers

She left for Bangkok later in the afternoon for a two-day visit.

In her speech before the PBEC, the President assailed the "protectionist barriers" being set up by developed countries that have kept developing nations like the Philippines from being globally competitive.

She said these barriers have been put up in the textile and the garment industry, agricultural and fisheries products and even steel.

She said this protectionism in the developed countries had undermined the Philippines' "ability to mobilize support for trade policy reform."

She said "sanitary requirements and technical standards seem to be the weapon of choice of protectionists," citing the example of Philippine mango and banana exports which, while already accepted in Japan, have had to undergo "exhaustive data collection and certification requirements lasting for years."

Ms Macapagal drew a round of applause from the audience of businessmen and foreign investors when she reported that the Philippine peso was now trading at P49.78 to the US dollar.

In a pitch to foreign investors, the President painted a rosy picture of the economy, noting that her government was able to meet its fiscal reduction targets and that leading international credit agencies had all endorsed the country's creditworthiness.

Ms Macapagal asked the foreign businessmen to "join me in delivering on the promise of a new Philippines." **Reports from AFP and AP**

Moro rebs 'happy' with ceasefire

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—Separatist Muslim rebels from the Philippines' poorer southern region on Tuesday said they are hopeful a new agreement with the government can help sustain the present peace, and promote economic development.

Al Haj Murad Ibrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, told AFP that the ceasefire was holding although there were reported incidents of violations, which should be tackled.

Earlier in the day, the Philippine gov-

ernment and the MILF inked an agreement on implementation guidelines on the humanitarian rehabilitation and development aspects of the Philippines-MILF Tripoli Agreement. The Tripoli deal helped establish the ceasefire between the two.

"We are happy because with this agreement our people can experience the fruits of the peace process and allow the return of evacuees," said Ibrahim.

Representatives of the government and MILF signed the deal during a brief visit by President

Macapagal-Arroyo to Malaysia, where she traveled to witness a trilateral anti-terrorism pact between the two countries and Indonesia.

The signing ceremony for the MILF implementation agreement was witnessed by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar and Eduardo Ermita, a presidential adviser for the peace process, and the MILF's Ibrahim.

Among its salient points, it seeks to pave the way for the immediate return of evacuees and for the MILF to establish a project implementing body to disburse private and government funds.

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Oops! Wrong math

IN OUR yesterday's front-page story, "Pinay worker wins P34.5M in Taiwan," we erroneously reported that a Filipino OFW recently won such an amount in a long-distance telephone draw there. The current exchange rate is only P1.45 to NT\$1, not P34.5. Thus, her NT\$1-million windfall is equivalent to only about P1.45 million, not P34.5 million. Sorry for the wrong math.—Ed

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Census of Muslims in Baguio assailed

BAGUIO CITY—The Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) here has denounced the new round of census of Muslim residents in the city, saying the order violates an agreement reached by Muslim and police leaders last year.

In a dialogue, the OMA agreed to help the Baguio police in their anti-terrorism campaign provided that they respect the Muslims' right to privacy, said Abdullah Macarimpas, OMA assistant regional director.

Macarimpas said the OMA is ready to sue city police officials if they push through with the house to house census.

"Some policemen are even monitoring the activities of our brother Muslims. Why would they do that when we already pledged our allegiance to (the government) last year?" he said.

Police officials here ordered a new round of census covering Muslim migrants last week in the wake of the Philippine National Police's crackdown on suspected terrorist cells in Northern and Central Luzon.

"What they (police) are doing is harassment, violation of privacy and discrimination because they specifically identified Muslims in the order," Macarimpas said.

He said he is keeping a written order signed by Senior Supt. George Daskeo, chief of Baguio police Station 2, which he will be using as evidence. **Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**



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Chinoy trader cleared in tax credit cases

THE SANDIGAN-BAYAN yesterday allowed government prosecutors to drop a Filipino-Chinese businessman from the list of respondents in 17 criminal cases stemming from the so-called tax credit scam.

The anti-graft court's 4th Division ordered the exclusion of Paulino U. Lim from the charge sheet that included former Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena and several others among the accused.

But in another ruling, the 4th Division said it has found "some measure of ambivalence" on the part of state prosecutors with regard to their position on the criminal liability of oil giant Petron.

The court ruled favorably on the Aug. 2, 2001 recommendation by the OSP to have Lim cleared.

The OSP then said there were no evidence that Lim took part in the conspiracy involving the other accused regarding the fraudulent issuance of TCCs by the finance department under Belicena's watch.

In a resolution, the court took note that in the same Feb. 20, 2002 memorandum, the Ombudsman upheld the OSP's decision to clear

Lim. The memo partly read:

"The only evidence which brought about the inclusion of Paulino Lim are various waivers of claim he allegedly executed in his capacity as Vice President of Pacific Mills in favor of Universal Steel Smelting Co. Inc. submitted to support the application of the issuance of TCCs involved in these cases."

CANDICE MARIE REYES CUSTODIO y CASIM graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE last April 15, 2002, from the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, class 2002.



She is the eldest grandchild of (ret.) Major Napoleon C. Casim and Antonina Olander Casim and the only child of Emmanuel G. Reyes and Estelita Casim Reyes.

As a scholar, she has been a consistent 1st placer in the dean's list and has received several awards such as the following:

- Rector's Academic Excellence Award, Feb. 2002
- 1st place, Inter-Medical School Quiz Contest, St. Luke's Hosp., Nov. 2001
- Outstanding Academic Achievement in Surgery II, March 2001
- Graduated Cum Laude, BS Physical Therapy, March 1997
- Placer in the Physical Therapy Licensure Examination, Aug. 1997
- Quezon Leadership Award for exemplary leadership, 1994

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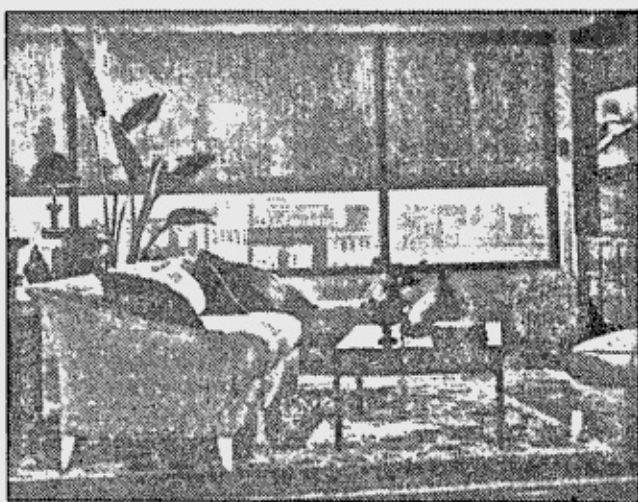
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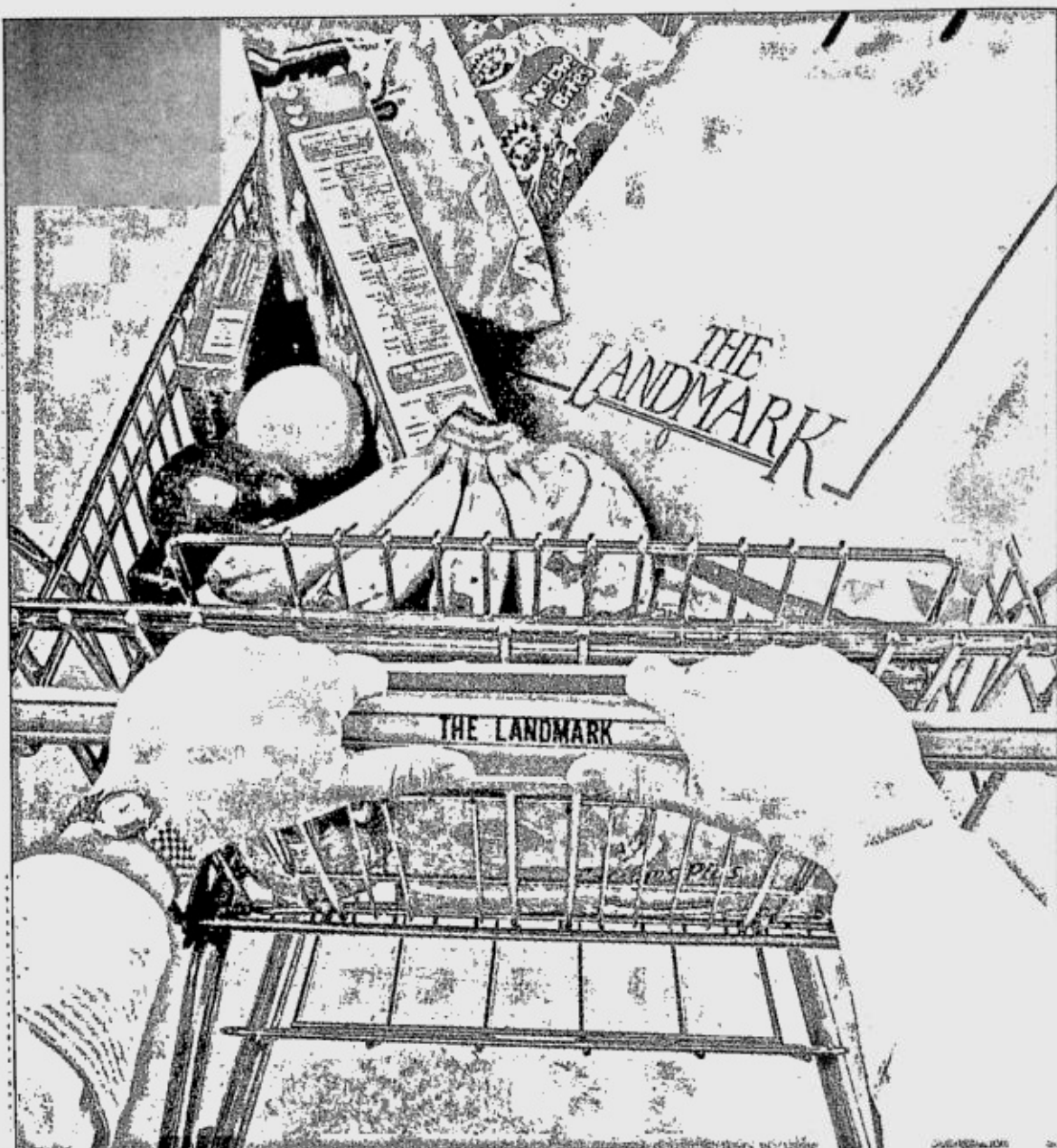
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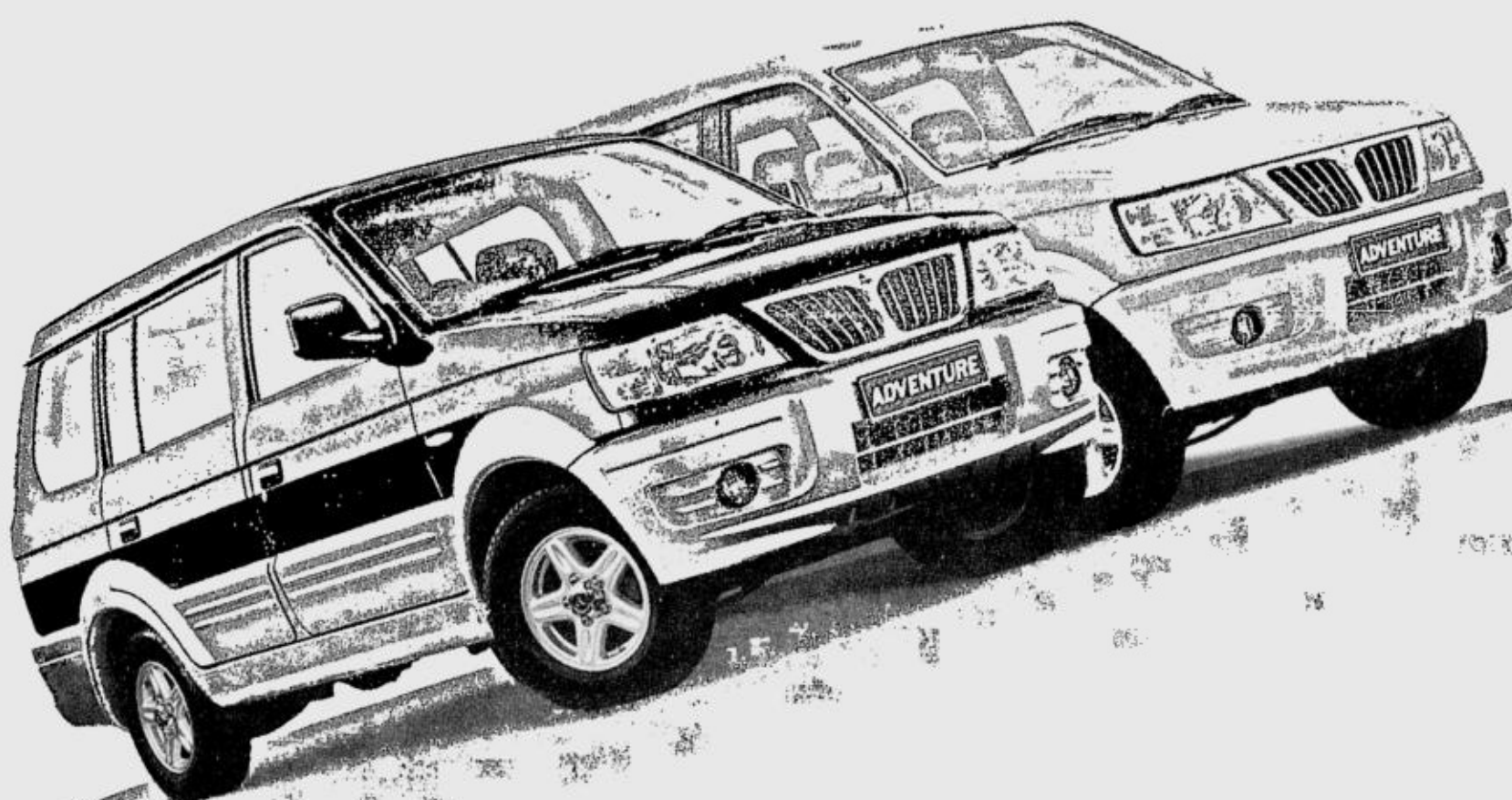
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**THE
LANDMARK**

Gloria prods Benipayo to woo foes in Comelec

By D. Pazzibugan and A. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will try to patch up "personality issues" between Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo and the four Estrada appointees in the Comelec.

In a radio interview on Monday, the President said she planned to invite Commissioner Rufino Javier to lunch with her and Benipayo.

Javier, a former Pasig congressman, was appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada in 1998.

Ms Macapagal said Benipayo could reach out to the four Estrada appointees, starting with Javier, who, she said, "is a former politician."

In a crack at reconciling the two factions, the President met with the Estrada appointees—Commissioners Luzviminda Tancanco, Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Javier—over dinner in Malacañang two months ago.

Afterwards she had lunch with Benipayo and explained to him the personality issues.

She said she wants to tackle the personality issues between the two factions first, and let the courts rule on their disagreements over "substantive issues."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, however, sees the Comelec dispute as something more than just a personality conflict. It is supporting the impeachment campaign against Tancanco.

In a statement, Sister Rosanne Mallillin, head of the CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (Nassa) said Tancanco's impeachment would help the cause of political reforms in the country.

But two congressmen took up the cudgels for Tancanco, saying the commissioner deserved support, not harassment.

"What we need is a sober discussion of the controversy and healthy democratic exchange of ideas on the issues affecting the Commission on Elections and its officials," said Rep. Willie Villarama of Bulacan.

Villarama said attempts to impeach the controversial commissioner would set back reforms in the Comelec where Tancanco, he said, had led a reform program to modernize

the country's antiquated and defective electoral system.

He also warned that the impeachment would demoralize the reform-oriented Comelec employees and embolden cheaters or manipulators in the commission whose interest is to keep the status quo in the country's poll body.

This was the same stand of Rep. Faisah Dumarpa of Lanao del Sur, who appealed to the leaders of Namfrel

for objectivity in dealing with the issue.

Dumarpa said the impeachment would only derail the Comelec's modernization program.

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Padilla delivered a privilege speech and held a press conference to express his suspicion over Liongson's "highly lucrative contract" to undertake specific tasks—usually additional privileges and benefits for Piatco—from the government.

Padilla said Liongson was responsible for several amendments to Piatco's contract to build and operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III.

He said the amendments were in favor of Piatco.

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Golez says Cimatu was shortchanged

By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil

INCOMING Armed Forces Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu got the short end of the stick when President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him while declaring at the same time that he would serve for two more months after his retirement in July.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has claimed that Cimatu's term was effectively "shortened" instead of being extended.

Golez cited Republic Act 8186 as giving the AFP chief of staff a maximum term of three years regardless of his retirement age.

Cimatu, who will assume the post on May 20, will reach the compulsory retirement age of 56 in July.

The President said she would "extend" his term up to September.

No extension

"It is not an extension. His tenure was in fact shortened by the President," said Golez.

RA 8186 also provides a maximum term of three years for the vice chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and all the major service commanders, unless earlier relieved or compulsorily retired.

But, while compulsory retirement applies to all military officers, an exception is made for the chief of staff who may be allowed by the President to finish his tenure, Golez pointed out.

Golez said the tenure of military officials, while not clear before, "was made clear by RA 8186."

Opposition Senators Gregorio Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and Tessie Aquino-Oreta have accused the President of committing an unconstitutional act in extending Cimatu's term.

Golez said Ms Macapagal did not violate the Constitution or any so-called "tradition" when she appointed Cimatu despite his being close to retirement.

By "tradition," military officers with less than a year to go before retirement should not be appointed chief of staff.

'Review your law'

Golez said the three senators should "review their law" as this tradition had been overtaken by RA 8186, which was passed in 1996.

Section 4 of RA 8186 states that, except for the chief of staff, an officer who has less than a year of service remaining cannot be appointed to the position of vice chief of staff, deputy chief of staff, and major service commanders.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Cimatu's appointment was not a cause for demoralization in the Armed Forces.

"The President decides and designates the chief of staff. Once the President has spoken, the issue ends," Reyes said in a radio interview.

He conceded that grumbling was "natural" in the organization, especially for those who were not chosen.

"But they are soldiers, they are gentlemen and they are officers and they know that that is a presidential prerogative so they have to follow," Reyes said.

US army usec here to inspect troops

ZAMBOANGA CITY—United States Army Department Undersecretary Les Brownlee arrived here yesterday amid tight security to inspect US soldiers deployed here for joint operations with Philippine troops.

The day before Brownlee's arrival, authorities had found two kilos of TNT and blasting caps from a sea vessel.

The military Southern Command said the explosives may have been intended to carry out an Abu Sayyaf plan to sow terror.

"It's basically a familiarization (trip) for him, it's his first time here in the Philippines. He wanted to have a first look at the equipment of the US Army here in Zamboanga and in Basilan," said Lt. Col. John Fleming, the spokesperson for the US Combined Information Bureau (CIB).

Fleming said Brownlee would like to see what other things might be needed for the conduct of the Balikatan 02-01

exercises aimed at training Filipino soldiers to fight terrorism.

At a press briefing at the Southcom headquarters here in which he did not once mention the hostaged US missionary couple, Brownlee said the US government appreciated the Philippines' support for the global war on terrorism as he praised the progress of the joint operations.

"The American people, the people of the United States are very appreciative to the people of the Philippines for the support that your country is providing in global world terrorism, we appreciate that very much," he said.

Earlier, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said he hoped to rescue the US hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap before he assumes the top military post later this month.

The Burnhams will mark their first year

in captivity on May 27. They are the last of the dozens of hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort.

In the Clark Special Economic Zone, where another group of US troops have just concluded the Balikatan 02-02 exercises, a US military officer said the US troops were not going to Mindanao to join other US forces there.

Col. Brendan Kearney, Balikatan US co-director, said most of the soldiers are returning to US military bases in Okinawa in Japan, Guam, Hawaii and in the US mainland. He said a group was going to Thailand to join another joint exercise called "Cobra Gold."

Kearney also clarified that the US military contingent was not leaving any equipment for the AFP.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., meanwhile, said that the crash of an Air Force plane in Mabalacat last week in which a pilot and a civilian were killed

was no reason to cancel future military exercises in Clark.

"One accident may not be a sufficient basis to suspend or cancel an entire undertaking," said Guingona, who is also foreign secretary.

The deaths cast a pall on the closing rites of the Balikatan 02-2 even as officials hailed the training exercise as "successful."

The death of PAF pilot Capt. Danilo Policarpio and teacher Jesus Rivera were remembered during the concluding ceremonies on Monday.

Kearney said the tragic crash "validated the very purpose of Balikatan" which were interoperability, staff planning and plan execution "to make a positive contribution to the community that was in need."

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Meralco haled to SC over 'unjustified' rates

By Norman Bordadora

A MANILA-BASED lawyer yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Manila Electric Co. from collecting the "unjustified, bundled, unspecified and unitemized" power purchase adjustment (PPA) charges.

Lawyer Mar Torres Reyes also asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order against Meralco's including the PPA component in its monthly billings to consumers.

Reyes identified himself as the principal petitioner and class suit counsel in the suit against Meralco.

The PPA pertains to the cost of the power that the utility company buys from the National Power Corp. which Meralco passes on to consumers and which accounts for almost half of consumers' monthly electric bills.

Reyes also asked the high tribunal to make Meralco account and be audited for the entire amount of the PPA charges that it has collected since 1996 and have the excess immediately returned or credited to consumers in their monthly billings.

Torres said he was representing

all electric consumer-customers of Meralco in the class suit against the Lopez-owned company.

Reyes said that Meralco's customers have suffered "true and actual injuries" since the company started collecting the PPA in 1996, when it constituted only nine percent of electricity charges.

He said that his own personal experience with Meralco's billings showed that the company had steadily increased the percentage of its PPA collection "from an already high 37 percent in June 1999 to a real high of more than 104 percent in April 2002."

In Congress, Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday rejected a proposal to grant the National Power Corp. an additional budgetary subsidy so it can absorb some of the PPA charges to relieve consumers of the burden.

Recto said the solution to the PPA mess did not lie in the budget.

"If the PPA charges are tucked into the national budget, Juan de la Cruz as a power consumer may pay a lower electricity bill, but as taxpayer he would end up paying more taxes to support a national budget made bigger by the PPA

charges," Recto said.

He warned that sweeping the PPA under the budgetary rug would bloat the budget deficit, curtail social spending and push the government deeper into a debt rut.

He said the solution to the PPA mess was to renegotiate the power purchase contracts that the government had entered into with independent power producers.

Recto said contracts were not written in stone that they cannot be renegotiated.

Moreover, letting the national budget assume the PPA obligations would have the effect of ratifying the onerous IPP contracts, he said.

At the House, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero yesterday filed a resolution seeking to renegotiate the IPP contracts to relieve the people of the "onerous burden" of paying for the PPA.

Escudero said there is a need to immediately renegotiate the contracts with the IPPs, particularly the "take or pay" or "minimum take-off" provisions, so that the Napocor would only pay for actual power used for the duration of the contracts.

He said that if the Napocor were to pay only for actual power used, this would slash 40 percent from consumers' electric bills. **With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

They shot the sheriff

ONE charge led to another as a civil case between a computer school and one of its former executives worsened into a case of "shooting the sheriff."

Manuel Abad, former executive vice president of the AMA Group of Companies, and his wife Agnes are in hot water after they allegedly ordered security guards to shoot a sheriff and policemen serving a court order in his hospice center in Fairview, Quezon City. They and 11 others are charged with attempted homicide and disobedience of a lawful order.

The Abad couple owns the Asian Institute of Health Care (AIHC) where the attack allegedly happened on May 2.

Also charged were the hospice center's security head, Ricardo Apostol, and his 10 watchmen belonging to the JOMEGA Security Agency.

Court Sheriff Benito Cusi filed the complaint along with PO1 Regie Gloriana and PO1 Edgardo Galang, both of the Fairview police station who both assisted Cusi in serving the court order.

AMA, which maintains a chain of computer schools in the country, had sued the Abads for unfair competition and damages with prayer for writ of preliminary attachment before the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court. AMA alleged that the respondents put up rival institutions while still holding the second top post in the AMA Group.

Cusi, in his affidavit, said he was ordered to serve and implement an order of Muntinlupa City Executive Judge Norma Perello on the writ of preliminary attachment filed by the AMA.

He said that when he informed the guards in the area that he was implementing the court order, he was told that the watchmen had been instructed by the Abads to shoot anybody who would attempt to enter the premises.

When he was denied entry, Cusi said, he tried to saw the gate of the premises and was about to enter when the security guards started firing at him and the policemen.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, May 8, 2002
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Gospel: Jn 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into the whole truth."

He has nothing to say of himself but he will speak of what he hears, and he will tell you of the things to come. He will take what is mine and make it known to you; in doing this, he will glorify me. All that the Father has is mine; because of this I have just told you, that the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you."

Commentary

The gospel highlights the role of the Spirit within the life of the Christian community, guiding us into "the whole truth," through a deeper understanding of all that Jesus did and said. When Jesus walked beside the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Spirit was at work in their hearts, causing them to "burn" and resonate joyfully with Jesus' interpretation of the promises of scriptures concerning himself. Those who try to live their daily lives in fidelity to the words and example of Jesus will have a sense of the Spirit that comes from God. "If you love me you will keep my commandments and I will ask the Father to give you another Helper to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he is with you and will be in you." (Jn 14:15-17)

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona-ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES



CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Requisites: Voluntary surrender

—With regard to voluntary surrender, 3 requisites must be proven, namely: (1) the offender has not actually been arrested; (2) the offender surrendered himself to a person in authority; and (3) the surrender was voluntary. A surrender to be voluntary must be spontaneous, showing the intent of the accused to submit himself unconditionally to the authorities, either because he acknowledges his guilt, or he wishes to save them the trouble and expense necessarily incurred in his search and capture. If none of these two reasons impelled the accused to surrender, because his surrender was obviously motivated more by an intention to insure his safety, his arrest being inevitable, the surrender is not spontaneous. The word "spontaneous" emphasizes the idea of an inner impulse, acting without external stimulus. The conduct of the accused, not his intention alone, after the commission of the offense, determines the spontaneity of the surrender. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Nicholas, G. R. No. 142044, November 23, 2001] **DIGEST BY R. B. VERA**

WEDNESDAY
MAY 8, 2002



CHUA

Chua, 65, interred tomorrow

RESPECTED businessman and philanthropist Benjamin G. Chua Jr., who died on May 1 after battling a prolonged illness, will be buried tomorrow at the Holy Cross Memorial Park. He was 65.

Ben, to those who knew him, migrated from Xiamen to Manila some 51 years ago. Having graduated cum laude in chemical engineering at the University of the Philippines, he later went on to establish and become chair of Cathay Pacific Steel Corp., the Asia-Pacific Capital Group of Companies, and the Chiang Kai Shek College.

Chua was involved in socio-civic activities and was president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCII). He served as vice chair for Global Bank and director for Metro-bank and the University of the East.

He was also a commissioner for President Macapagal-Arroyo's National Anti-Crime Commission. His family and friends also remember him as a man with a good heart, a good husband, father, and friend.

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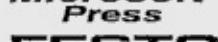
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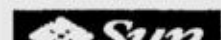
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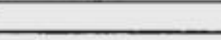
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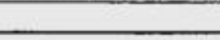
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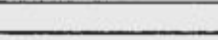
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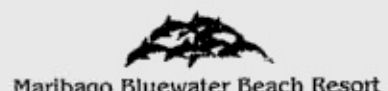
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0446 series of 2002

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INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 149
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascarido Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183
• 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34



Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
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Rot from within

ONE very curious outcome of the recent three-day summit of political parties was that resolution calling for state financing for political parties. No doubt the proposed subsidy will have a direct bearing on the future of Philippine parties, but it still looks mighty strange that it was given almost equal importance as the proposal to amend the Constitution to change the form of government.

EDITORIAL As early as February, Speaker Jose de Venecia filed a bill providing for the grant of state subsidies to political parties in the House of Representatives. Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, who led the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, authored a similar bill in the Senate. With both administration and opposition leaders pushing for the bill, its enactment should be only a matter of time. Thus, its inclusion among the summit recommendations looked rather odd. Did the participants at the summit perhaps run out of ideas so that they had to adopt as their own a legislative measure that is already scheduled for deliberation in Congress?

The proposed legislation is being sold as a solution to the problem of graft and corruption in government as well as a way of blocking the flow of dirty money, like those from illegal gambling, drugs and kidnapping, into the campaign coffers of candidates for public office. Politicians and political parties, De Venecia noted, are "all too often tempted to give improper favors" to those who contribute to their campaign. Even "more worrisome," he said, is that criminal syndicates have started to finance their own candidates. Reducing this "unhealthy dependence" on moneyed interests should be a "key element in the national strategy for fighting corruption," he declared.

"Money politics," "narco-politics," "booty capitalism" and the growing influence on politics of criminal syndicates are problems that need to be addressed decisively and urgently. But it is doubtful if the proposed legislation would even mitigate the problem.

Firstly, De Venecia and Angara seem to assume that politicians and political parties are forced to find financiers in business or even the underworld for lack of funds to run their campaign. Political fund-raising is always a problem here where parties don't have loyal members who contribute to their coffers. But giving subsidies to parties—even to the tune of P3.5 billion annually, as some of the bill's proponents have estimated—is not going to keep politicians out of the reach of influence-seekers and even criminal interests for as long as campaign spending cannot be held down to its legal limit. Every politician knows that legal campaign expenditures—for posters, advertisements, organizing and actually going on the hustings—constitute but a small fraction of the budget. The bulk of the expenses goes to buying votes and sometimes bribing election officials. So unless some way can be found to stop this pernicious and pervasive practice, subsidizing the legal expenses of political parties will only make the elections even more expensive.

Being politicians themselves, the proponents of the measure tend to lay the burden of guilt on those who contribute campaign funds and demand repayment. They seem to have forgotten that quite often the candidate and the financier are one and the same. After investing millions to buy an electoral victory, they immediately set about the business of recovering their investments.

Indeed, more often than not, the rot starts from within. Politicians know that major campaign financiers will always ask for favors, so why do they continue to tap them if they are not prepared to play the corruption game? Even then the cost of repaying favors probably adds up to just a small fraction of the total cost of corruption to the government. For if one were to look back at the major financial scandals that have rocked this country, the big majority involved not political paybacks but payment of kickbacks to high public officials.

Will subsidizing the political parties ever temper the rapacity of many of our politicians? Even De Venecia, Angara or any among those who are pushing for the bill cannot honestly say it will. So why throw away billions in taxpayers' money for something so futile?



Why your water bill keeps going up

MORE bad news for consumers. It has turned out that our water bills have more additional charges than the bundled Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) in our electric bill. The electric bill has only two additional charges listed: the PPA and the Cera. Together they more than double the monthly electric bill.

The water bill, on the other hand, has six items added to the basic rate which also doubles the water bill. Besides the Cera and the FCDA, counterpart of the electric bill's PPA (these will be explained later), there are the "Environmental Charge," "Maintenance Service Charge" (MSC), "Penalty" and "Value Added Tax" (VAT). All these, as in the electric bill, are what are called "Cost Adjustment Mechanisms" that adds costs to your bills.

The Cera, or "Currency Adjustment Rate," reflects the fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate over which the power and water utilities have no control. Both have foreign loans denominated in US dollars. When the peso exchange rate dips, the utilities have to pay more in pesos. The difference they charge to their customers in the form of Cera. When the peso rate appreciates, like yesterday, the Cera is reduced.

On the other hand, the FCDA, or "Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment" is the counterpart of the electric bill's FPCA, or Fuel and Purchased Power Clause, which reflects fluctuations in the cost of fuel and the cost of power purchased from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in terms of the peso-dollar exchange rate. In the case of water, I don't understand why there is a Cera and a separate FCDA when both are concerned with the exchange rate. And unlike the power companies, the water concessionaires do not import water or fuel that they pay for in dollars.

Then the water bill has the so-called "Environmental Charge" which an advertisement of the Maynilad Water Services says is "charged to all services to cover desludging and other environmental costs," whatever that means.

Then there is the MSC or "Maintenance Service Charge" which, the same ad states, is "based on meter size." The bigger the size of the meter, the higher the MSC charge. I never see anybody

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



from the concessionaire maintaining our water meter.

Then there is the "Penalty" which is 3 percent of the bills not paid on time. If you are late in paying even by only one day, you have to pay an additional 3 percent of the total amount. And what if it is the collector who is late in collecting the payment?

Finally, there is the VAT, or "Value Added Tax" which is 10 percent of all the charges (except VAT itself) combined.

Together, all these additional charges almost doubles your water bill. In the example of the Maynilad ad, for example, the basic charge is only P174.15. This represents the cost of water actually consumed. But the six other charges raise the total bill to P323.96, or a difference of P149.81.

In short, all the possible expenses of the water concessionaires are collected in the six additional charges. The amount collected in the basic charge is pure gravy. And yet the two water concessionaires asked for and were given increases in the basic rate. The excuse: that because of the deterioration in the exchange rate, they have to pay more in pesos for their dollar-denominated loans. But isn't that already covered in the Cera and the FCDA?

What we don't realize is that the concessionaires are also collecting a "sewer" charge although that does not appear in the itemization. But the bill says it clearly: "Water/Sewer Charge."

The concessionaires do not provide any sewerage service. Except for the old houses and buildings in Manila, almost all the houses in the concession areas of Maynilad and Manila Water are not connected to any sewerage system. Each house has its own septic tank. Runoff water goes

into the storm drains that run into creeks and rivers not serviced at all by the concessionaires. Some companies and cities, like Ayala in Makati, have their own water treatment plants. So where is the "sewer charge" going?

When the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System was privatized, the propaganda was that water rates would go down. That was a trick. The water rate is reflected only in the item "basic rate." The seven other items are something else.

It should also be pointed out that when the private concessionaires took over the MWSS, all the system's components were already in place and working: the water was there, and the distribution pipes were there. The new concessionaires didn't have to do anything to put them in place nor look for water sources. All they had to do was collect the bills. On the very first day they took over, they were already making money.

At present, they are laying out additional distribution pipes, but that is funded by income they have already collected. And these additional and bigger pipes will increase their customers as well as the water consumption. Which means bigger collections. So the expenses for those new pipes are investments which will reap immediate rewards once they're finished.

On the other hand, the privatization of the water distribution system has brought many quirks. The original MWSS concession area was divided into two, one for Maynilad and the other to Manila Water. Valves between the two concession areas were closed. The rates of the two concessionaires are widely different, largely because of the different sizes of the loans they inherited from the MWSS.

So that two neighbors near the border of the two concession areas, one serviced by Maynilad the other serviced by Manila Water, may have widely different water bills. They consume the same amount of the same water coming from the same source and distributed through the same pipes from the sources, yet the water bill of one neighbor is about double the bill of the other. What's to prevent one neighbor from laying out a pipe or a hose from his neighbor's house to his own to take advantage of the cheaper rate?

It can be done

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



ing to enjoy the early morning air, I came across a small crowd huddled around a decomposing corpse. So much for savoring the mountain mists.

I don't know how things are in SSS Village today, but the roads in Marikina generally look well maintained. The shoemakers seem happy, and business seems to be humming once more. You want to have a nice quiet Sunday afternoon, you can't do better than by strolling in its park by the river, which is what the Marikina residents now seem to like to do en masse. It's certainly so much better than the Luneta or Parks and Wildlife. It's enough to inspire you to do an impressionist painting of the place. It's clean, it's green, and above all it's free.

I've seen this in various places in the country, accomplishments that have taken place quietly but have had the most profound impact on the lives of the residents of those places. Naga City has done that too over the last decade and a half, emerging from obscurity and mediocrity to become the proud and bustling place it is today. Jeeps and tricycles park in the right places and pedestrians walk on pedestrian lanes on pain of being fined. The same is true of Olongapo and Puerto Princesa. Whatever you say about Richard Gordon and Edward Hagedorn, you have to say as well that they have infused their towns with a sense of purpose if not pride, a sense of aspiration if not ambition.

Maybe this is an argument for federalism. Clearly much of this owes to the efforts of the local officials, specifically the mayors of those places. Marikina certainly owes a great deal to Maria Lourdes Fernando, just as Naga City owes a great deal to Jesse Robredo, the

Magsaysay awardee for governance three years ago. But more than federalism, this is an argument for the fact that these things can be done.

The more you think about it, the more you realize a great deal of it is really just a matter of will, or in Tagalog, *kung gugustuhin lang*. It is far less a matter of ability than of desire. This country does not lack for ability, it is teeming with it—a fact that reveals itself in Filipinos excelling abroad. Or in going by the book abroad: falling in line, driving in a disciplined way, refusing to take corners in transactions. Traffic cops are determined to fine erring drivers and pedestrians, drivers and pedestrians will start not erring at all. Supervisors are determined to fire corrupt staff, or better still turn them over to the authorities, and the staff will start doing work without expecting extra income from extracurricular activities. Mayors are determined to crack down on rapists and murderers, or bad cops and government officials, and the rapists and murderers as well as the bad cops and government officials will relocate elsewhere, or apply for it. Marikina has shown it can be done. So have other cities in this country, if less dramatically.

All it takes are people with a sense of *malasakit*, who have enough emotional investment in a place to want to leave it better than when they found it. Most Filipinos do not want to trash their communities, notwithstanding their burning dream, or illusion, of one day being able to leave them for greener pastures abroad. Given the right cue from their officials, they will act strenuously to make their neighborhood a better place to live in.

There was something that helped me quit smoking a long time ago. It was someone's assertion that there was a habit more powerful than smoking, and that was not smoking. The same thing applies to turning things around. There's a habit that's more powerful than messing things up and that is making things better.

I can vouch for the absolute wisdom of the first. I suspect the second is not that far behind.

Surviving a 'nightmare'

FRANCE voted decisively on Sunday to elect right-wing President Jacques Chirac for a second term in the second round of elections whose results were interpreted as a referendum for democracy.

The French gave Chirac, leader of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party, an 82 percent majority, to crush his far-right National Front rival, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who polled 18 percent.

The vote for Chirac was the most overwhelming majority ever won by any French president since the Fifth Republic was established by Gen. Charles de Gaulle 40 years ago.

And yet, ironically, his victory was not an unqualified mandate for Chirac. The election result was a powerful reaction to the political earthquake that shook France after Le Pen knocked out the Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in the first round of elections in April to qualify for the run-off last Sunday. Le Pen rode on a xenophobic platform of pulling out France from the European Union, anti-immigration, anti-globalization, a tough anti-crime program and the return of the death penalty.

Le Pen's first round qualifying vote, in which he polled nearly 17 percent, so alarmed the French press that newspapers across the Right-Left spectrum closed ranks in the call for the rejection of Le Pen. Some political quarters said France survived a "nightmare" in the second vote. The press, however, generally interpreted Chirac's majority as a triumph of French values rather than of the president. The headline of *Le Parisien*, the Paris daily, said "France has won." The right-wing *Le Figaro* said the voting had been a "referendum rather than a presidential election," in which the French people showed their attachment to democratic ideals. The intellectual *Le Monde* wrote that "In 15 days, the nightmare has been replaced by a renewed dream of a fraternal and relieved France."

On the level of the polling stations, it is reported that the voters had concluded that the second round of elections was a referendum against

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Le Pen and that it was a choice between a "crook" and a "fascist." The voters glossed over allegations of corruption by Chirac when he was mayor of Paris.

On the continent, the result was greeted with relief. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the result was "a victory for democracy and a defeat for extremism"; and Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, said the French had demonstrated that their nation belonged to the heart of Europe. If Le Pen had won, his policies would have isolated France from the mainstream of political and economic unification of Europe. He had, for example, blasted the unification tendency as "Euro-globalization," and the euro, the common European currency, as a "currency of occupation."

The Chirac majority was helped by the vote of the Socialists and the other parties of the Left, which were fragmented in the first round. The leftist parties were frightened by the first round result, causing them to shift to the moderate Right to block Le Pen from the presidency.

The strength to the backlash against Le Pen is measured by the fact that the voters' turnout in the second round was more than 80 percent, higher than the less than 70 percent in the first round, reflecting disenchantment of the voters with the mainstream parties. Le Pen increased his vote to 17.79 percent in final round, from 16.86 percent in the first round. Despite Chirac's majority, the far right is heartened by its vote and will stand candidates for the parliamentary elections in June for the National Assembly.

A lengthening trail of light

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

even a high stakes, inter-galactic operation. Together they made beautiful music on a divine "hidden hand" and the central role it gives chaos and chance in evolution.

Chance, said Father Stoeger, "works within a larger framework of law and regularity, in a hierarchical complex of directionalities, with purposiveness." The Chaos Theory, said Dr. Natividad, is "a qualitative study of unstable, non-periodic behavior in deterministic non-linear dynamic systems (where) small variations in initial conditions result in huge dynamic transformations." If that's too formulaic for you, listen to how the "Butterfly Effect" describes the theory's basic principle: "the small stirrings of a butterfly's wings in Tokyo could result in a storm in Manila..."

Poetic hyperbole? Science fiction? This theory goes beyond that as it presently "revolutionizes thought on evolutionary processes in all branches of science, ranging from fluctuations of temperature, pressure, wind speed, even the ups and downs of the stock market." With it, scientists have begun "to describe a world of genuine becoming, with a future different from the past, a world of real novelty." In this sense, what the Chaos Theory describes is "not just randomness or chance" but "a sort of structured openness," an "orderly disorder" in a "world whose ground rules remain a mystery."

And what might mystery have to do with the "real world"? The field is fairly popping with possible applications of chaos control in voltage collapses, electro-mechanical oscillations and unpredictable behavior in electrical grids. Chemical processing and combustion, weather

Although Chirac won a crushing majority, it is not certain that the parties of the Right will control the Assembly. The parties of the Left, led by the Socialists, are back with a vengeance seeking to win a parliamentary majority that will enable them to share power with the Gaullists inside the framework of "cohabitation." Prior to the elections, the Gaullists held the presidency and the Socialists, with Jospin as prime minister, run government. It is far from certain that the far right is a spent force, following Le Pen's defeat, but Chirac would like nothing better than a Gaullist-led parliamentary majority that would end the truncated arrangement of cohabitation. Cohabitation during more than two decades has resulted in less consistent direction of French policies in domestic affairs, as well as in France's relations with the European Union, where it is considered a strong pillar for the concept of European political and economic integration.

If France has pulled itself from a disastrous plunge to xenophobia and isolationism, Chirac is now forced to form a broad middle ground of consensus that would remove the causes of extremism espoused by Le Pen. He is heading in this direction with the appointment of a centrist provisional prime minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, a regional politician who is not associated with the elite of the ruling political class.

Le Pen's issues reflect anxieties in France of sections of the population who have felt threatened by the presence of more than eight million African immigrants who are blamed for rising crimes, by loss of jobs and social security benefits arising from France's integration with Europe, by the influx of American "Coca-Cola" and "McDonald" culture, and by the loss of the uniqueness of French culture and language.

The Le Pen phenomenon raises issues forced up by France's realignment in the new European and economic order, emphasizing transnational cooperation rather than the primary of the nation state. Their vote tells us they have walked back to the path of political logic.

and stock market prediction, analysis of brain functions, math theory, even a transition in the Church and other mainstream institutions, "scarcely able to hold together chaotic forces that seem to threaten the very fabric of our civilized society," are all potential beneficiaries as well. Who knows what may be quietly developing even now on a frontier where change begins at the speed of thought?

There, the world "linked in an eerie form of chaos" perceived by new scientists is an uncanny mirror image of a Creator perceived by new theologians. God to them is far closer to warm, communal cultures like ours than childhood catechism ever guessed. "God as an individual subject is giving way to a relational, dynamic, Trinitarian concept of God inherited from the West," Natividad informs us. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are now seen "as a communion of persons in mutual love, focused on a relational and communitarian relationship." Par for the course, Catholic Christianity's former emphasis on the Passion and Death of Christ is also giving way to Resurrection and new life.

A grateful bow then to cosmology, physics, biology and other natural sciences for continuing to reveal "our common history and connectedness with all other creatures in the universe" in ever greater detail, no less in quantum mechanics than in ecology. Topped with the equally sound theology of creative partnership between human and divine in the work-in-progress that is Creation/evolution, a world too often defined by dark news reclaims long-lost light on a far more ancient unity, harmony resounding in the music of the spheres.

Good news then, Islamic brothers. Earth owes you, too, for your mystical 12th century Arab scientists who, like the early Greeks, created stable steps in a lengthening trail of light for humanity.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Letters

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



arcane leaves. The same is true of the roof except for the crossbeam that has to be raised high enough so that through it the water can run down. What I call the Indian cane is used for everything—for building houses, for making chairs, beds, tables and for cooking rice, carrying water and making rope. Houses here use no iron nails, only cane. It is also used for musical instruments and for making fire without matches because it is lighted from the same cane. The cane is useful for everything."

The above reminds me of Antonio Pigafetta in 1521 talking about the myriad uses of the coconut. In September 1898 he provides an insider's account of the Spanish surrender of Manila to the Americans. Today, we all know about the mock battle of Aug. 13, 1898 and how Fort San Antonio Abad, in the present Bangko Sentral complex on Roxas Boulevard, was bombarded prior to the surrender of Intramuros. Due to this prearranged battle the Spaniards did not lose face, and more importantly surrendered the city and its soldiers to the Americans, not to the Filipino forced led by Emilio Aguinaldo. Galan did not know he was sold out:

"This is to inform you that in 9 August, commander Dewey...sent a message to our general saying that if he did not surrender the plaza, they would bomb it. The general replied in the negative. Soon after, Dewey sent another message giving them 48 hours to evacuate foreigners, women, children, the aged and the sick from the city. This was carried out because the city was surrounded by land and sea by the Ameri-

cans and the Tagalogs.

"After 48 hours had passed, we stood at death's door because we had nothing with which to defend ourselves. The deadline on the 11th passed without a bombardment. The 12th also passed without any incident while we awaited death like the day before. On the 13th, at 3:30 in the morning, we awoke and deployed ourselves on the city walls. When day broke, the enemy vessels, totaling more than twenty, were already in combat formation encircling Manila. We waited for the bombardment to commence. At 9:45 in the morning, the enemy began firing at the city's line of defense that was broken a few minutes later. At 11:00, a banner of truce was hoisted for a conference between the governors of the United States and Spain. That conference resulted in the capitulation of Manila with all the forces defending it. At 11:30, we began yielding all our weapons to the military chief of the US, concluding the surrender at 5 in the afternoon. Our flag was lowered at 5:30, and their flag was hoisted. Many of the soldiers who witnessed the act shed tears.

"We remained here as prisoners after 105 days under siege by land and sea without supplies. It had been a month since we had bread because the supply of flour had been exhausted. We ate spoiled rice because we had nothing else and neither did we have any hopes of receiving anything. We ate the meat of horses and carabaos. We had water from rainfall because the water system had been destroyed by the Tagalogs. We have suffered from numerous misfortunes..."

Surely, there are more letters like the above sleeping in attics in Spain, treasured by descendants of soldiers who served in the Philippines. When these are made available to historians, our picture of the revolution can be complete.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Growing old well

YOU may sometimes overhear in gatherings of seniors (who refuse to be called old, obviously) that "kalabaw lang ang tumatanda" (only carabaos grow old). Honestly, I have yet to catch the logic behind the irrelevant reference to the carabao, poor fellow, but that is beside the point.

Unlike oldies of the past who sat idly in rocking chairs, cursed and verbally abused their children or grandchildren when the latter could not attend to their needs immediately, our elderly today work hard at overcoming their infirmities and at staying useful. The 19th century Swiss critic, Henri Frederic Amiel, could very well be speaking about them when he observed, "To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living."

Some people I know come close to Amiel's idea. Topping my list of amazing seniors is a sprightly little lady *balikbayan* whom I met recently on a trip to Baguio. At 82, she boarded and alighted from our bus with dispatch (putting to shame her wobbly seventysomething sister who did the same with great ceremony). She treaded those hilly sidewalks and led us lowlanders to the best bargains in the vegetable and fruit market, while talking endlessly about how she survived her widowhood in the City of Pines in the late '60s with five growing children to raise.

A resident of Montreal, Canada, she lives alone in an upstairs apartment within yelling distance from a married daughter who occupies another apartment downstairs. Although she can get by comfortably on her government pension, she still runs a dress shop where she single-handedly sews *ternos* and wedding gowns for Filipino expatriates.

Another lady friend—76-year-old Cora A.—has made it her apostolate to visit terminally ill patients in the hospital or in their homes (sometimes in depressed urban areas), and bring them comfort through prayers and some pep talk. She holds their hands for a while, for "they (the patients) like being touched," she says. It is her way of "preparing them for the final trip home."

To think that barely a year ago, she was an inconsolable grieving widow who made life difficult for her son and daughter for refusing to snap out of her depression.

Another widow, Cynthia Z., heads a growing number of civic-minded women involved in spreading cheer to soldiers who have been injured in clashes with rebels. They solicit medical equipment and medicines from missions abroad for use in the different military hospitals here. On significant occasions, including Christmas, Valentine's, hospital day, and anniversary of something or other, they distribute reading materials, snacks and toilet articles to the soldier-patients. This is in addition to Cynthia's official government work with an international volunteer organization.

Then there is Helen E., a business entrepreneur of no mean competence, who organized and trained musically inclined ladies in perhaps the only *angklong* (bamboo instruments from Indonesia) ensemble hereabouts. The lilting tunes they dish out, not to mention their still pretty faces, never fail to please their audiences.

To be sure, Cynthia and Helen and their "followers" are themselves tireless pleasure-seekers too. Ballroom dancing mahjongg-playing, out-of-town excursions for bargain sales or plain sightseeing have been part of their agenda. And miracle of miracles, they swear that their aches and pains do disappear when engaged in such pursuits.

An 88-year-old neighbor of mine, Tita Lily, gets busy by stringing rosary beads. Sometimes she invites younger friends over—me included—to show us how to make rosaries, while she regales us with stories of her life in the United States (she is also a *balikbayan*). She donates the rosaries to religious organizations abroad, including Russia, would you believe? With the thousands of rosaries she has made and given away, I imagine that she has accumulated quite a long string of divine merit for herself.

Sometime ago I got together with a group of sixtyish women from Arayat, Pampanga (my hometown). It felt good to reminisce about our youth; but more than this, the anxieties and fears of the present times seemed to vanish into insignificance. Comparing our respective misadventures with modern hi-tech instruments evoked delicious laughter, as we unmasked the true purpose of our attempt to use them, that is, just to be counted "in" with the *bagen* (slang for new generation) crowd.

For her part, Pilar G. narrated how eagerly she had enrolled in a computer class, but quit on the first day because she completely got lost at the teacher's instruction to "move your mouse." She also voiced her frustration, bordering on shame, over the ubiquitous contraption called a cellphone—why, even a 10-year-old could operate one so skillfully, she conceded. Not that she is giving up altogether.

Another common thing with these ladies—include here their love for food, but only the healthful kind, please—is their dedication to religious activities. When asked what she does now that she is retired from her job, Ely V. (a doctor of medicine) says, "I pray; I go to Mass every day."

They say that at our age, it is wise to sweeten your way up to that Someone above, to make sure He remembers you when your time comes. Maybe that explains why we see mostly elderly folks frequenting churches these days.

When I was working with a government office that served military veterans, a feisty and determined lady used to visit us with various requests, including the putting up of battle monuments, holding of commemorative events and extension of benefits to the fading World War II fighters. A retinue of graying veterans followed her around, folders of papers under their shriveled arms.

Her pleasant aggressiveness in pursuing her "labors of love" invariably produced favorable results. I am sure that her being the widow of an important guerilla leader also helped. When I mentioned that at her age (she must have been in her late 80s then) she should be relaxing at home she said she intended to continue doing what she was doing and hoped that when the inevitable came, she would "just collapse on the road and die."

Some elderly men I know devote their time and energy to setting up scholarships for poor but deserving college students. They raise funds in the most creative way, such as slapping fines on those who complain against such fund raising.

I once asked an octogenarian the secret of her youthful looks—aside from being a loyal patron of a popular cosmetics company, that is. Her response was, among others: throw away unnecessary baggage such as feelings of anger, guilt and envy, and be forgiving all the time.

It reminds me of a quote from James A. Garfield, a former US President, who said, "If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart."

Naty Lapuz-Templo is in her 60s and retired from government service in mid-1998.

Pagcor academy not a casino university

I WRITE in reaction to Antonio Calipjo Go's letter last April 30, 2002.

I would like to point out that there never was a "casino university" to speak of. "Casino University" was a term coined by the media. I believe the Agence France Press started it. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s gaming and entertainment school was to have been known simply as the Pagcor Academy, the name given to our Human Resource and Development Department by Pagcor's Board of Directors. It is the department that provides training to Pagcor's 11,000 employees; quite a few have found jobs abroad working as managers in some of the world's most respected gaming and entertainment centers.

Unlike Go who can think so unkindly as to say that the academy is "the brainchild of people with small minds," we believe otherwise.

The Pagcor Academy would have been similar to schools in the United States, Switzerland, England and Canada. Surely, these countries, which are some of the most advanced Christian countries in the world, have not seen their people's morality and decency "stolen" by a few God-fearing individuals teaching in their gaming schools.

Our Filipino gaming managers, croupiers and technicians are recognized all over the world for their hospitality and competence, not to mention their proficiency in English which is highly appreciated. Their skills in being able to manage a wide range of gaming concerns and complicated entertainment programs do not deserve to be ridiculed but praised. And while we're at it, I would like to put on record that the Pagcor Academy is not about teaching the Filipino people how to gamble. Far from it, it is about jobs. White

collar jobs. It is about teaching deserving people how to manage a gaming and entertainment concern in order to find financial security in high-paying jobs here and abroad.

With the gaming and amusement industry booming across the globe (the United Kingdom alone according to Forbes magazine will be establishing 250 casinos in the next two to three years; Japan, Thailand and Taiwan are legalizing gaming; Vietnam, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, even North Korea now operate casinos; in the United States, the world's richest country, nearly all states have now welcomed casino gaming and entertainment as a source of much-needed revenue; and the list goes on and on), we intend to answer the groundswell of demand for well-trained and highly competent gaming and entertainment personnel in order to help



our country's less than robust economy.

Which leads me to a very important point. The problem with being "holier-than-thou" is the tendency to be one-track-minded, to acquire tunnel vision, to think small. Go thinks the world is going to the devil when it isn't. It never will. Especially a God-fearing country with God-fearing people like ours. Pagcor's 11,000 employees among them.

—GRYK ORTALEZA, PR and advertising director, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Why a 'third force' is unnecessary

AT ITS very inception, Freedom Force has fizzled out. The idea of it as a third force has not materialized. Invitations for the support of its cause fell on deaf ears. People were lukewarm to the idea of organizing a third force to ward off power-grab attempts by either elements of the Left or the Right.

Indications of a smoldering social volcano are rife but government is on top of it and is simmering it down. There is no need of a third or "freedom" force to do what the military is supposed to do to carry out its constitutional responsibility. Right now the military is operating against insurgent

elements, both from the Left and the Right, to secure the State. It is also the guardian of the people's welfare and well-being against abusive, immoral, deceitful, plundering governments in the likes of the Marcos and Estrada regimes.

As institutionalized in Section 3, Article II of the Constitution, it simply means that the security of the State and the protection of the people's welfare and well-being are fundamental in the survival of the nation. For the military to go beyond the intent of the Constitution is frowned upon in our military circles.

There should be no fear there-

fore that the military may use this provision to take advantage of a time of crisis by grabbing power. In fact, the military has not taken advantage of any national crisis to grab power at any time in the history of the republic.

The military is in full support of the commander in chief. To belabor the thought that the government exists on sufferance by the military is to destroy the command relationship between the military establishment and the President as commander in chief and does not recognize civil-military efforts at achieving national unity and political stability.

Supremacy of civilian authority is characterized by the relationship between civilian and military leadership that accepts and respects the military chain of command and the insulation of the military from needless political interference. It is to the interest of the nation that both civil and military establishments work hand in hand in an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and harmony for the common good under a democracy that is responsible and authoritative.

—MAJ. GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT, (Ret.), Armed Forces of the Philippines

More inclined to projecting a good image

IT'S plain to see that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is more inclined to project a good image than to do more than merely coasting along, scratching the surface of the problem. Dante Ang's delusion is that it's all a matter of communicating with symbols. ("Conveying the messages with the appropriate symbols..." PDI, 4/22/02) So, why the denials?

Ang apparently isn't aware that indulging in symbolism is more hocus-pocus than honest. Worse, he overlooks the fact that it has only raised doubts about the President having a good head on her shoulders. The point is that economic-political theories

can't correct the more deeply ingrained problems such as the problem of a rotting body politic resulting from a lack of vision and dedication in leadership, thus the absence of discipline and direction in action.

A good example is our present dependence—again—on the Americans to help us resolve our peace and order problem, oblivious of the fact that the Americans are only interested in solidifying their might in Asia by building their military infrastructure in the Philippines. Oblivious too of the fact that criminality and social disorder are the results of the corrupt secret deals in officialdom.

Or is it the reverse psychology of showing the picture of unawareness to disguise the misdeed? Well, the law says something about that too: Ignorance of the law excuses no one.

That the people are disappointed is obvious. They thought the President knew exactly what the government needed to do when she promised to push for a moral restoration by fighting graft and corruption. Now she seems to have fallen into the same peat-bog that "trudgols" enjoy wallowing in—projecting an image of being hardworking even though working for one's personal agenda takes up most of the

time at people's expense.

If she can't speed up the wheels of justice for the oppressed, the government workers will not be inspired to perform the way they are supposed to perform. And that would, of course, mean that she has no leadership abilities, and that gains are going down the drain. Perhaps her conundrum lies in that she tries too hard to be as aggressive as the men; the need however is for an insightfully caring woman who must correct the many wrongs inflicted by the aggressive officials.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City

Iridology basically a diagnostic tool

THIS is a reaction to the advertisement last April 12, 2002 wherein the Filipino Organization of Filipino Eye MDs and the National Organization of Filipino Physicians declared a public warning against iridology. They declared that iridology is not a branch of medicine and does not have a scientific basis and, according to studies made by experts, it is not an effective way of diagnosing diseases or weaknesses of the body.

However, it is not a matter of just making these statements. They should elaborate each claim backed by authorities on the subject and they should cite medical journals, medical literature and research. I would be happy to receive any in-depth study proving that iridology is unscientific.

Let me say this about the science of iridology or iris analysis. It is a study of how signs of the health of the body and its organs are reflected in the eye. It is mostly utilized by naturopaths in the United States (Naturopathy is a medical degree and requires licensing before one can practice in the United States).

Iridology is basically a diagnostic tool to assess the weaknesses of the organs and constitution of the human physiology, not curative. It was started in the 1800s by Ignatz von Peczely of Egervar near Hungary who created the first chart of the iris. He discovered that there are reflex relationships between the various marks in the iris and organs of the body.

In the 1920s, this was started in the United States by Dr. Bernard Jansen, a chiropractic doctor and nutritionist. He is acclaimed as the Father of Modern Iridology in the United States. He popularized the science with years of research and has written ample scientific literature.

Some Filipino doctors studied iridology and integrated them into their practice. This is why we have what is called holistic medicine, or biological medicine, or complementary medicine. A hi-tech machine called

the Iris Scan has been developed to lend credence to the art and science of iridology.

If the two medical organizations claim that iridology is "unscientific," how come it has never been banned in the United States? The Department of Health in the Philippines has never declared the practice of iridology unscientific and unlawful. Former Health Secretary and now Sen. Juan Flavio did not make any claims against iridology.

Those who say that iridology is not scientific should be able to substantiate their claims. Anyway, what is scientific? Scientific means something that is objective and precise. Since iridology started in the 1800s, it has undergone unprecedented studies and researches. There are scientific studies which have been conducted in Russia, Portugal, England and Germany, all pointing to the veracity of iridology. Iridology is just a form of alternative medicine and there are others like hair and nail analysis, live blood analysis and Oriental medicine. We can't just make a sweeping statement against a specific therapy if we do not have a working knowledge about it. Neither can we assail meditation, bio-feedback, mind development, Ayurvedic medicine or prayer therapy as unscientific.

People must be given freedom of choice in medicine, that is, to choose a particular therapy they feel is suitable and viable. If a patient, for example, has been diagnosed to have a terminal illness such as cancer, will we take hope away from that patient to seek alternative therapies, like herbal medicines? I can cite cases of patients who had been cured by alternative medicines, in spite of hopeless diagnoses from conventional medical practitioners.

—DR. JOSEF DE UBALDO, DSc (AM), president, Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations

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Is your career going nowhere? Have we got the route for you.

Every Wednesday in our business section, we've got job-hunting tips, career guides and news on what's happening with today's workforce. A crucial task considering that the greater part of the employed consult us regularly.

France's Chirac scores massive but hollow victory

PARIS—With his landslide reelection on Sunday, President Jacques Chirac has scored the most massive—and the most hollow—victory in modern French politics.

Now he has to decide what to do with it.

His 82 percent score in the presidential runoff was a clear vote against what the French did not want—a belligerent, populist pariah, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who threatened to send immigrants home and pull the country out of the European Union.

But it said nothing about what Chirac, who chalked up a record low score of less than 20 percent in the first round of voting on April 21, should do with his new five-year mandate.

"Chirac has been voted in but he is not the victor," wrote commentator Jacques Julliard. "His crushing score is not one of a party, but as a representative of democracy." The Journal du Dimanche newspaper called it an "abnormal and exotic victory."

"Jacques Chirac did not get 80 percent of the votes for his program," said former finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, one of the first Socialists to urge the Left to back Chirac when Le Pen emerged as his runoff rival two weeks ago.

The president left his options open by running on a minimal anti-crime ticket even before his victory was assured on April 21 when, in a first round of voting, Le Pen edged out his expected challenger, Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Chirac kept the French guessing after his victory, saying only the new government would "reestablish the authority of the state, respond to the demands for security and put France on a new path of growth and employment" without explaining how.

Georges Pompidou set the previous record for a direct presidential election in 1969, winning 58.2 percent. Chirac beat Jospin in 1995 with 52.6 percent.

The glaring contrast between Chirac's first and second round scores split French commentators between those calling him "the best-elected president of the Fifth Republic" and those describing him as "the worst-elected president."

With the Le Pen threat disposed of, all eyes are now on the June 9 and 16 parliamentary election and what Chirac will do over the next six weeks to ensure a right-wing majority and so avoid a repeat of the past five years of paralyzing power sharing—or "cohabitation"—with

a left-wing government.

"One of the main messages of the first and second rounds of voting was 'we want to see action'," said conservative former prime minister Alain Juppe, Chirac's closest ally and a key figure if the center-right wins the legislative elections.

Chirac should give the first hint of his plans on Monday or Tuesday when he names a replacement to the hu-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tom Heneghan

miliated Jospin.

Among the frontrunners are former budget minister Nicolas Sarkozy, whose appointment would signal a series of strongly conservative reforms, and provincial moderate Jean-Pierre Raffarin, a champion of devolving power from Paris.

But Chirac will not actually know how much leeway he will have until the final legislative votes are counted on June 16.

According to the first poll by the Ipsos group, 44 percent of voters want the Right to win while 41 percent back the Left. Sofres pollsters, asking voters last week, saw the Right winning a majority of seats in the National Assembly.

Juppe warned that France could be heading for a crisis if the Left wins the legislative election.

"If we fall back into another cohabitation, we will fall back into impotence," he said. "I think we'd have to really think about reforming our institutions."

Eager to avoid another cohabitation, several left-wingers have called for a new constitution to replace General Charles de Gaulle's 44-year-old Fifth Republic, a hybrid system with a president and prime minister who can end up competing.

But they are split over whether to make it a full presidential system, like in the United States, or copy the parliamentary system used in many other European countries.

The Ipsos polling group said it found 62 percent of people wanted to amend the constitution to prevent any further cohabitations.

Chirac last week ruled out making any institutional changes to respond to the voter discontent so loudly expressed in the presidential election, when about 30 percent voted for left or right extremist parties in the first round.

"What is at issue are not the institutions but the capacity of France's leaders to listen, understand and take action," the president said in a keynote campaign interview. **Reuters**

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suu Kyi faces long battle to rebuild democracy cause

RANGOON—Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was scheduled to meet party activists on Tuesday as she began the struggle to rebuild the democracy movement and push for political change after her release from house arrest.

Burma's military government freed Suu Kyi on Monday after 19 months of house arrest. She was greeted by hundreds of cheering supporters who thronged the road outside the headquarters of her National League for Democracy (NLD) in the most open display of political activism in years.

The 56-year-old Nobel peace laureate now faces the difficult job of keeping together the democracy movement, fractured by disagreements on strategy, and pushing the ruling generals to implement real political change.

Many analysts remain unconvinced the junta is serious about its promise to work toward democracy.

The military has ruled Burma for four decades, and says the multi-ethnic country could disintegrate if it moves toward democracy too quickly. The NLD won



SUU Kyi speaking to reporters on Monday after being released from 19 months of house arrest.

REUTERS

elections in 1990 by a landslide but the military refused to hand over power.

The world hailed Suu Kyi's release but leaders cautioned it was only the first step toward restoring democracy.

US President George W. Bush said her release was a possible "new dawn" for Burma, but the US government expected other major changes before lifting sanctions.

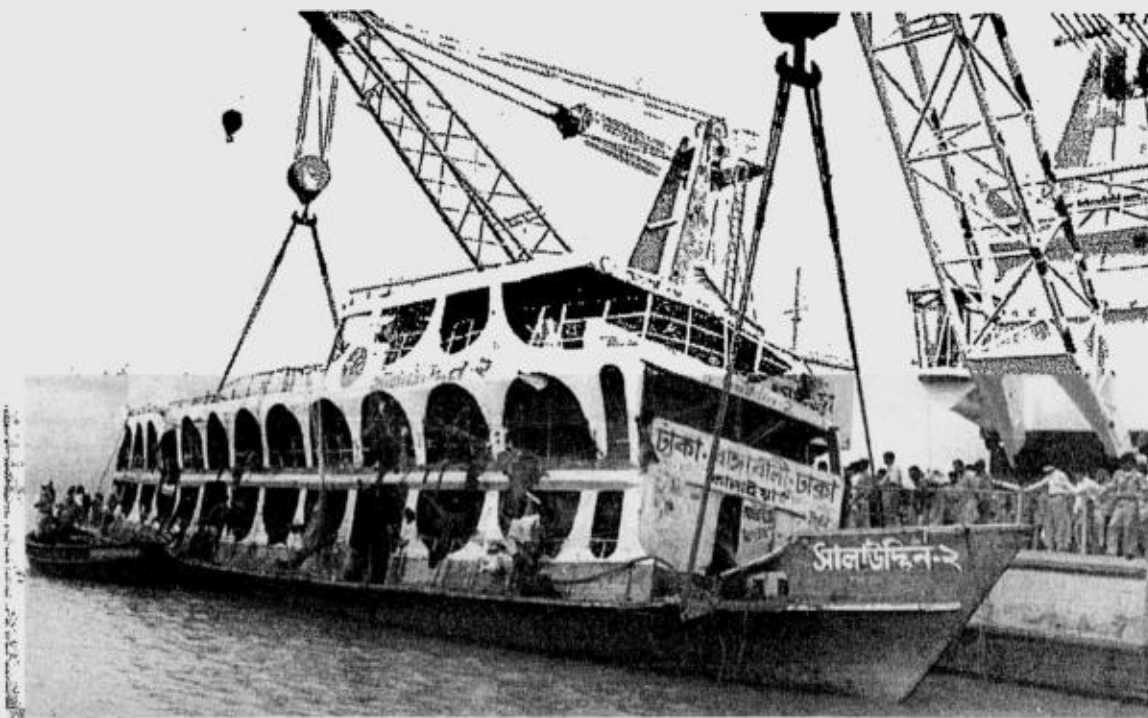
Diplomats said Suu Kyi's release was widely seen as an attempt by the generals to get international sanctions lifted, rather than the start of genuine momentum for political change.

They say the government is desperate to get sanctions eased.

This is Suu Kyi's main bargaining chip in her talks with the military. She said on Monday her party remained in favor of international sanctions on Burma. But she is likely to tell the generals she may change her stance—if they agree to real political reforms.

In a statement on Monday, the junta said it had begun "a new page for the people of Burma and the international community." But diplomats say it remains to be seen whether they will follow up Suu Kyi's release with more concessions.

Reuters



A BANGLADESHI salvage ship refloats the passenger ferry M.V. Salahuddin-2, in the river Meghna at Shalna 170 km south of the capital Dhaka, on May 6. Some 300 bodies have been retrieved from the ferry which went down with 500 people aboard during a storm on Friday night.

REUTERS

Last bodies retrieved from ferry

SHATNAL, Bangladesh—The stench of rotting corpses filled the air around a Bangladesh river ferry on Tuesday as rescuers retrieved the final bodies from inside the vessel that sank last week, killing more than 320 people.

The 19 badly decomposed bodies were trapped under mud and cargo inside the MV Salahuddin-2, which sank on Friday during a storm in the second worst ferry disaster in Bangladesh's history.

Police said the bodies would

now be buried along a riverbank because they could not be transported further.

"I am sick and tired of standing guard (on the ferry) and seeing the inhuman scenes," said policeman Mohammad Shahjahan.

Rescuers have retrieved more than 320 bodies from the ferry and dozens more are believed to have been swept away by storm-swollen waters of the river Meghna. Officials said they expect more bloated corpses to surface in the river in coming days.

Katebur Rahman, head of Chittagong administrative division, visited the salvaged ferry on Tuesday and said a "string of inadequacies in terms of safety regulations and their implementation" were to blame for such disasters. He did not elaborate.

Shipping officials said the ferry had just one engine instead of two that major river ferries usually had.

Officials said it was not known how many passengers were on the ferry and the final death toll might never be known. **Reuters**

US dumps world court, angers major allies

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration, flouting the advice of major allies and outraging human rights organizations, renounced on Monday any obligation to cooperate with the new International Criminal Court.

The decision, formalized in a letter to the United Nations, means the United States reserves the right to ignore the orders of the court, the first permanent world tribunal to prosecute people for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Canada and the European Union expressed disappointment and regret over the decision by the Bush administration, which had already angered some allies by walking out on the Kyoto climate accord and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The administration of former President Bill Clinton signed the treaty setting up the court in 2000 so the United States could take part in talks on arrangements for the new body.

But both Clinton and the Bush administration said they did not intend to ask the Senate to ratify the treaty, on the grounds it could

be used for politically motivated prosecutions of US officials or military personnel.

"The United States does not intend to become a party to the treaty. Accordingly, the United States has no legal obligations arising from its signature, US Under Secretary of State John Bolton said in the letter delivered at UN headquarters.

Pierre-Richard Prosper, US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, said: "It neutralizes the signature... When you sign, you have an obligation not to take actions that would defeat the object or purpose of the treaty."

For example, Washington could now reject an extradition request from the court, he said. "That could be construed as inconsistent with the objects and purpose of the treaty. What we are saying is we have no obligations."

The chief of the treaty section at the United Nations, Palitha Kohona, said the section could find no precedent for a country withdrawing from treaty obligations in this way. **Reuters**

Chirac targets middle France after victory

PARIS—Fresh from trouncing far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, President Jacques Chirac named a grass-roots moderate from the provinces on Monday to govern France in the run-up to crucial parliamentary elections.



RAFFARIN

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, 53, has six weeks as interim prime minister to ensure the momentum from Chirac's landslide in Sunday's presidential runoff translates into a center-right majority at National Assembly elections on June 9 and 16.

Little known outside Poitou-Charentes, the area of western France around Poitiers where he heads the regional council, his appointment signaled Chirac had heeded the message of protest from voters fed up with an unre-

sponsive elite in Paris.

"I have heard and understood your appeal for a republic which is alive, for a nation that joins forces and for a change in the way politics is conducted," Chirac said on Sunday night in a victory speech that pledged action on crime and jobs.

"We won't forget the discontent the French people have expressed... and this demand for action, this demand that we be closer to them," Raffarin said after taking office.

A graduate of a business school rather than the ENA civil service academy that traditionally grooms France's ruling class, the former marketing executive was named barely an hour after Socialist Lionel Jospin tendered his resignation as premier.

Humiliated by Le Pen last month in a first round of voting for the presidential election, Jospin spent five years sharing power with the conservative Chirac in an awkward "cohabitation" after legislative elections won by the left in 1997. **Reuters**

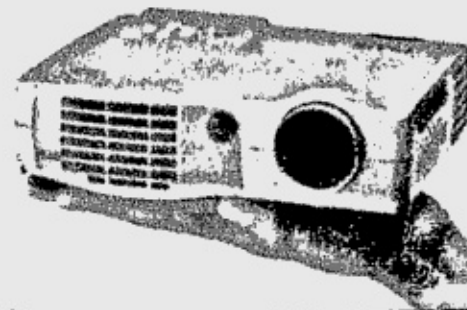
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Mahathir: OIC inutile

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's leader called the world's biggest Islamic organization ineffective Tuesday and said its weakness had led to a pathetic response to the Israeli destruction of the Jenin refugee camp.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's tongue-lashing of religious ministers from the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference—a grouping of Muslim countries that Malaysia will chair next year—included a bitter joke.

"I am ashamed that many among Muslims and non-Muslims have made fun of the OIC, saying it stands for 'Oh! I see,'" Mahathir said.

"The implication is that we just see and do nothing."

Mahathir, 76, is Asia's longest-serving leader and leads one of the richest countries in Southeast Asia. He has long maintained that Muslims need computer skills, not bombs. He has castigated fundamentalist parties for twisting their religion by turning their backs on the modern world.

"It is shameful and un-Islamic that all we Muslims can do when the Israelis massacred the Palestinians in Jenin and elsewhere is to appeal to others for pity and help," Mahathir said.

AP

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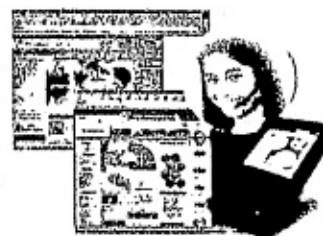


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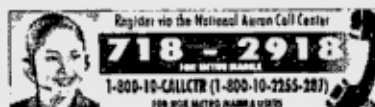


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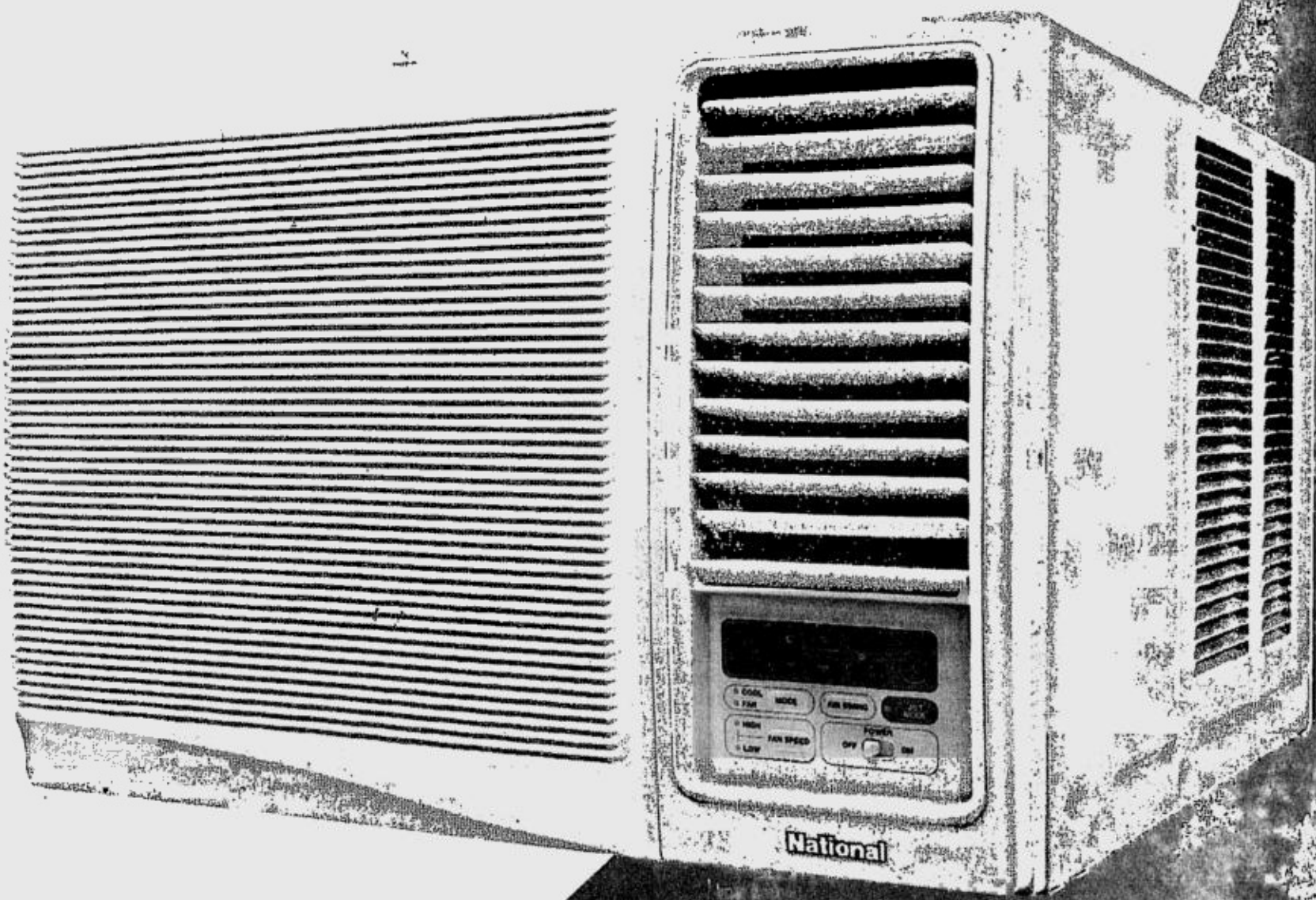
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National

US adds Libya, Syria, Cuba to 'rogue states'

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday accused three more states—Libya, Syria and Cuba—of pursuing weapons of mass destruction and warned it would take action to ensure they do not supply terrorists with such arms.

In a speech titled "Beyond the Axis of Evil," Undersecretary of State John Bolton said in addition to Iraq, Iran and North Korea—which President George W. Bush several months ago branded an "axis of evil"—there were other "rogue states" out to acquire weapons of mass destruction, particularly biological weapons.

"America is determined to prevent the next wave of terror," Bolton, who oversees international security policy, told the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, in a reference to the Sept. 11 attacks that killed around 3,000 people.

"States that sponsor terror and pursue WMD (weapons of mass destruction) must stop," he said. "States that renounce terror and abandon WMD can become part of our effort. But those that do not can expect to become our targets."

He said there was "no doubt that Libya continues its long-standing pursuit of nuclear weapons," as well as chemical weapons, biological weapons and ballistic missile capability.

"We are concerned about Syrian advances in its indigenous CW (chemical weapons) infrastructure (and believe Syria is) pursuing development of biological weapons and is able to produce at least small amounts of biological warfare agents."

Bolton, calling Cuba's threat to US security "underplayed," said Washington believes the communist government there "has at least a limited offensive biological warfare research and development effort (and has) provided dual-use technology to other rogue states."

He said he was making these charges public for the first time but refused to name the states Cuba has supplied, citing a need to protect US intelligence sources.

Bolton made only scant mention in his speech of Russia and China, two nuclear powers whose alleged willingness to transfer nuclear, missile and other technology to Iran, Iraq and other states has long been a US concern, prompting sanctions.

In response to a question, Bolton called Russia and China "unquestionably the two largest sources of proliferant behavior internationally" and noted the administration is discussing changes in proliferation policy with both countries.

Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran, a subject of Bolton's talks in Moscow last week, will be a "factor" in Bush's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in two weeks, Bolton said.

But he echoed other officials in voicing optimism Bush and Putin would sign a new "strategic framework" slashing nuclear weapons and strengthening non-proliferation measures.

According to Bolton, many states on the US target list signed multilateral arms control accords, like those banning biological and chemical arms, but routinely violate them.

Reuters

Dutch poll in doubt after controversial politician's slay

AMSTERDAM—Stunned and sickened, the Dutch struggled on Tuesday to comprehend the murder of their most colorful and controversial politician, anti-immigrationist Pim Fortuyn, little more than a week before a general election.



FORTUYN

Fortuyn, a flamboyant, shaven-headed former sociology professor whose populist bid to become his country's first gay premier rocked the world of Dutch politics, was shot dead outside a radio station in Hilversum, near Amsterdam, on Monday after giving an interview.

His killing, unheard-of in a land famed as a haven of social and political tranquillity, sparked unrest on the streets of The Hague as angry Fortuyn supporters lashed out at a political elite and the

media whom some blamed for having demonized him.

The Dutch Cabinet began meeting members of Fortuyn's party to discuss whether to postpone the May 15 election, in which the rightist party—set up just months ago but riding high in opinion polls—was expected to make big gains.

Police said they said they were in the dark as to a motive.

Perhaps eager to avoid inflaming racial tensions given Fortuyn's stand on immigration and his attacks on Islam, police said they had arrested a lone "white Dutchman" aged 33 after the shooting.

Dutch media said the suspected killer was known to intelligence services as an "extreme leftist" from the deeply religious small central Dutch town of Harderwijk.

"Much is still unclear about the murderer's motives, but what is clear is that the Netherlands has lost its innocence thanks to this repugnant and incredible attack," said a front-page editorial in the broadsheet De Volkskrant, which spoke of "the first political murder in Dutch modern history." Reuters

Drought impact limited, says Taiwan president

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian said on Tuesday a severe drought, which has forced one Taiwanese island to buy water from China and caused panic runs on bottled water, would not have a lasting impact on the island's economy.

But he urged government agencies to stop pointing fingers at each other. "A venomous war of words will not help us fight against the drought," Chen said in an interview.

Investors particularly fear an adverse impact on Taiwan's leading microchip industry, which uses large amounts of purified water to clean the delicate electronic wafers.

"It may have some psychological impact on the overall economic development and the progress of industries," Chen said. "But from the fundamental and

long-term point of view, the impact should be limited."

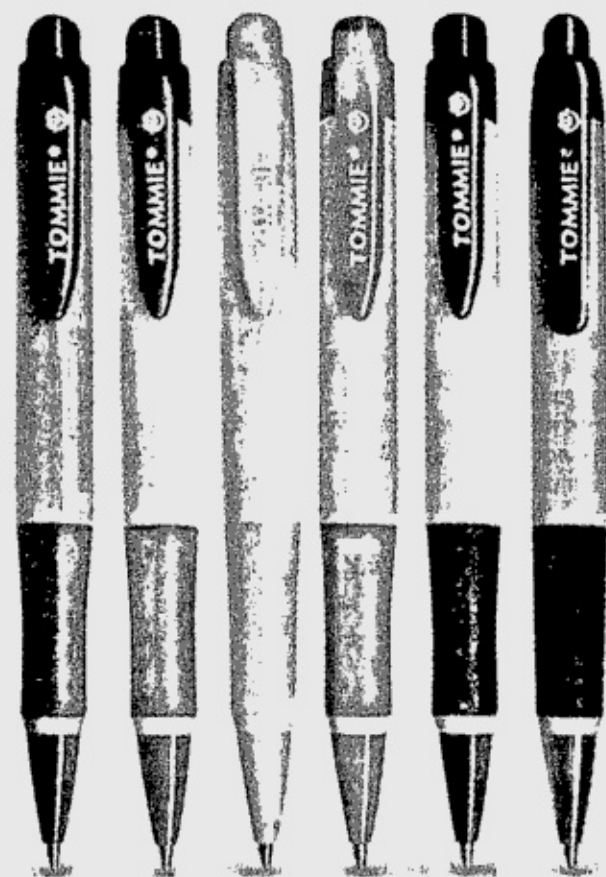
Hit by the worst drought in decades, Taiwan began to ration water last Friday, cutting supplies to car-wash operators, swimming pools, saunas and other non-essential services.

In Taipei, officials announced the capital would extend rationing and restrict water for consumer use for the first time in 22 years.

"The situation is very serious. If we don't take measures, Taipei may thirst to death before summer arrives" in June, a city government spokesperson by telephone said.

On Sunday, the parched island of Matsu, which is much nearer China than the main island of Taiwan, bought more than 2,000 tons of shipped water from the Chinese, the first such contact since Taiwan split from China after the civil war in 1949. Reuters

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Cha-cha for elites—Satur

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Malou Guanzon-Apalisok
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo on Monday expressed doubt that amending the Constitution would benefit the people, claiming that the move would serve the interest of "oligarchs who were actively involved in the recent political summit."

Ocampo, who was guest during a national mining conference here, was reacting to the agreement of 21 political parties to amend the 1987 Constitution after 2004.

"It raises doubts that even though there had been a good discussion on various views with analyses and conclusions, our political system is ruled by the oligarchs. If only the oligarchs can implement reforms to take away their control, we throw back this challenge to them if they can do it," he said in a press forum here.

Ocampo said Speaker Jose de Venecia, the political summit's main proponent, was playing safe when he decided to have the Constitution amended after 2004.

He dared De Venecia, who earlier vowed to reach out to the opposition

that boycotted the First Philippine Political Parties Conference, to live up to his promise that he would not pursue any political ambition.

"De Venecia said he will live a legacy. And so be it," Ocampo said.

He, however, expressed fear about the statement of Samar Rep. Antonio Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, that there would be major revisions in the Constitution.

"Once the Constitution is revised, the dominant view is pro-globalization and pro-foreign bias," Ocampo said.

He added: "We have the remaining Filipino or pro-nationalist provisions, the national patrimony in the Bill of Rights. We have good provisions in the 1987 Constitution that are anti-dictatorship."

Ocampo, however, stressed that he does not oppose Charter change after 2004 but to the amendments to the political system.

Changing the form of government from presidential to parliamentary to federal without effecting changes on the lives of the people would still be "elitist politics," he said.

In Cebu City, Sen. John Osmeña said the creation of regional governments as an "intermediate step to federalism" is the only way to spur economic develop-

ment and lick poverty.

Osmeña issued the statement in reaction to President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that the shift to a parliamentary form of government and to federalism should proceed from a "regional economic zone, to autonomy then to statehood."

In a keynote speech delivered during the national political summit on Friday, she said "proposed component states should first be economically and politically ready for statehood."

But Osmeña, a staunch advocate of federalism, said the President's concept was wrong, saying "she got her hierarchies of changes reversed."

He said the primary objective of Constitutional amendments should be to "liberate the people from poverty, which comes from a waste of resources resulting from a highly centralized form of government."

Osmeña pointed out the President has "equated an economic zone with a regional government."

He said "regional economic zones are mainly for the benefit of foreign entities (that) locate themselves in these tax free havens."

"The only benefit from economic zones is employment for the people, but that is not the solution," the lawmaker

stressed.

"The solution to poverty and economic development are not supposed to be conditions to federalism, but rather they are the results of federalism," he said.

"You federalize to save on resources and you liberate the people. And from that will result economic development and the solution to the problem of poverty," he added.

Osmeña said the federal structure will "solve problem areas in Mindanao, spur development in almost all of Visayas, except Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)."

"Areas outside of general channels of growth like Region 8, Surigao and Bicol will have to be taken care of by some form of equalization of revenues of the national government," Osmeña said.

Osmeña favors the election of senators by region, the removal of restriction on foreign military troops in the country, the lifting of term limits as well as lifting of restrictions on the 60-40 rule with respect to foreign ownership of business in the country.

The senator said he is "100 percent in favor" of the proposal to subsidize political parties and scrapping the Judicial and Bar Council. **With a report from Katrina Agnes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 26°
Laog	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Layesa, PDI Research/05/08/02

ROUNDUP

Tagged as communists

DAVAO CITY—The military here tagged two ranking militant leaders in Southern Mindanao as members of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, even presented witnesses against Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan and Alvin Luque of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan here. But Del Rosario admitted that the military has still to consult lawyers on possible legal action against the two. Virador and Luque dismissed the charges, saying the military's script was old and defective.

Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Documents falsified

ROXAS CITY—Several Capiz provincial board and city council members filed on Friday before the city prosecutor's office charges of falsification of public documents against Capiz Electric Cooperative (Capelco) manager Edgar Diaz and finance service manager Jessie Dalisay. The complaint accused the two officers of bloating its loan exposure to justify its petition for a power rate increase filed with the Energy Regulatory Board in January 2001. The complaint said Capelco claimed in its petition that its outstanding loan to the National Electrification Administration had reached P451.691 million when its actual loan was only P282.691 million. But Diaz said the issue had been laid to rest after the Capelco admitted that it was an "honest typographical error."

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Road mishap kills 2

NAGA CITY—Two persons were killed and two others were injured when a white van slammed into a big acacia tree along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Tambo, Pamplona, Camarines Sur on Saturday, police said. One of the fatalities identified as Chloe Bongat, 38, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Bicol Medical Center. Another still to be identified woman, was killed at the accident site. Police identified the injured passengers as Belinda Manjares of Daet and Glen Pajarillo. Witnesses said the white van was cruising along the Maharlika at high speed and tried to overtake a jeepney when it slammed into a tree.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Land for ex-rebels

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command have agreed to set aside 105 hectares of open land at Barangay Maon-on, Ligao City for the reforestation project of rebel returnees and residents. Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina has tasked 202nd Infantry Brigade commander Col. Dante Bonifacio to implement the project.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA owns executions

LEGAZPI CITY—The Santos Binamira Command of the New People's Army in Albay has admitted executing eight police officers and assets in Albay since January. Florante Orobica, who claimed to be the command's spokesperson, identified the victims as Romeo Bronia alias "Boy Bata," who was gunned down on April 21; Lopo Ola Regorosa, killed in January; SPO2 Domingo Mabini of the Daraga police; Catgu Dexter Sambajon of Jovellar and Catgu Paredes Matsa of Guinobatan. Three police officers were identified only as SPO4 Lopes, SPO2 Buermos and SPO2 Odena.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Road mishaps kill 3

TARLAC CITY—Three people were killed while two others were hurt in two separate accidents in Camiling and Capas towns last week, police said. On May 2, Army Sgt. Reynaldo Racina, 31, was driving a Honda motorcycle at Barangay Aranguren in Capas when he collided with another motorcycle driven by Berner Pineda, 30, of Barangay Sto. Rosario, Capas. Both died on the spot. Racina's passengers—T/Sgt. Zosimo Tadian, 47, and Alvin Sarmiento, 17—were injured and taken to the Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital here. On May 3, Adelaida Martin, 37, was killed when she was hit by a tricycle in Barangay Bobon Segundo in Camiling.

Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bomb at Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Presidential Management Staff members, who were checking out the safety and security of the Expo Pilipino for President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit here on Saturday, found a 500-pound World War II bomb at the ground of the Centennial Park on Friday. The explosive and ordnance division of the 710th Special Operations Wing of the Philippine Air Force detonated the vintage bomb at 1:45 p.m. on Friday, according to Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the 600th Air Base Wing in Clark.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bigger Balikatan planned for 2003

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—More than 5,000 United States troops are expected in next year's joint military exercise if a plan for a bigger training for American and Filipino soldiers gets the nod of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was disclosed on Monday by Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, deputy chief of staff for operations and training of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, after the closing rites here of the Luzon phase of Balikatan 02-2.

"I think it will involve more, bigger forces," Teodosio told the INQUIRER.

Asked how many US troops would participate next year, he said: "Probably double the size of this (year's participants)."

The US military contingent in the two-week, six-event training consisted of at least 2,600 troops from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army.

Teodosio said that by design, the exercises would have to progress from training small groups to bigger batches in order to achieve the ultimate objective of "interoperability" between Philippine and US military forces. "I mean if there is any contingency we can work and operate smoothly," he added.

Teodosio said Philippine and US military planners will meet on the plan on Tuesday.

He said the plan has not yet been presented to Ms Macapagal. "Nothing is final yet because there might be objections from some (branches in the AFP)," he said. "The plan will be submitted first to the Secretary of National Defense (Angelo Reyes) and the (AFP) Chief of Staff (incoming AFP chief of staff Lt. Gen. Roy Cima)."

Council to file charges vs 2 judges

BUTUAN CITY—The city council here has passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Daisy Plaza to file charges against at least two judges who barred the mayor's closure order against Bombo Radyo-Butuan two months ago.

Plaza said her lawyers are now studying the next move against judges Victor Tomaneng and Rosarito Dabalos, after the city council's resolution.

But Noel Libres, director of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Butuan denounced the move. He said Plaza and the councilors were clearly retaliating against Tomaneng and Dabalos "at the expense of the people."

Earlier, the mayor accused Tomaneng and Dabalos of abusing their authority when they sided with Bombo Radyo.

Tomaneng issued a 20-day temporary restraining order against the closure order on

Feb. 21, while Dabalos issued a writ of preliminary injunction against the same order on March 13.

She said it was clear that Bombo Radyo bribed Tomaneng and Dabalos.

The two magistrates denied the allegations and said Plaza was already attacking the integrity of the judiciary.

They said the TRO and the injunction were granted after the city government failed to justify the closure order.

Bombo Radyo branded the closure order as an effort on Plaza's side to stifle press freedom here. The radio station has been critical of the mayor.

But Plaza said there was nothing personal in her efforts to shut down the operations of the station. She said Bombo Radyo violated several local ordinances, including some provisions of the mayor's permit. **Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAY'S END

Stacks of baskets have been emptied of fresh vegetables that were delivered at the Bangkerohan Public Market in Davao City.

Ralliers storm Masinloc power plant

MASINLOC, Zambales—The National Power Corp. will not be able to immediately give in to the demands of the ralliers who stormed the Masinloc coal-fired thermal power plant here shortly before midnight Sunday.

During a dialogue with the ralliers on Monday morning, plant engineer Eugenio Alfonso said the case is under review by the Court of Appeals.

He said there is also a pending case on land compensation claims before the Department of Justice.

Demanding immediate payment of their land compensation claims, about 2,000 ralliers threatened to paralyze the operations of the plant, one of the biggest suppliers of electricity in Luzon.

The ralliers, mostly tenants led by Yolanda Damasco of the United Tenants Association of Barangay Bani (Utab), said they wanted im-

mediate payment of their land compensation claims totaling P92 million.

Mayor Jess Edora said the ralliers blocked the plant's main gate at 11 p.m. Saturday by putting up steel pipes and boulders that prevented vehicles and personnel from entering the plant.

Two groups also put up blockades on another road leading to the plant while about 20 boats patrolled the shoreline near the site, Edora said.

There were no reports of violence although the guards manning the gates appeared to be under siege.

Damasco said they resorted to the mass action because the Napocor, which owns the plant, has been playing deaf to their pleas for compensation.

She said the ralliers would continue with the barricades until their demands were met. **Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Five Bicol provinces to have less dry spell, says aggie dep't

NAGA CITY—Five of the six provinces of Bicol are expected to experience less effects of El Niño starting the third quarter of this year, a top official of the Department of Agriculture yesterday said.

Fe Laysa, DA Bicol executive director, said Masbate is the only province here expected to feel the brunt of the dry spell while Albay, Camarines Sur and Norte, Sorsogon and Catanduanes would hardly experience the abnormal effects of El Niño.

But Laysa cautioned that the dry spell would still affect farm production, which, she said, is expected to bring down this year's regional output.

She said the DA has already put

in place measures to cushion the effects of El Niño.

Massive information dissemination has been conducted and fast-growing crop seeds already distributed to farmers in the region.

Arnold Altarp of Pagasa here said that El Niño will commence on the third quarter and could last until the first quarter of 2003.

Altarp said their office has already recorded some abnormality in the rainfall level, which has been below the level needed for normal crop production.

Altarp said rains would continue to fall even as these are below the normal level. **Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

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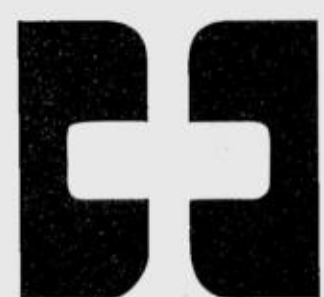
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Ilocos Sur welcomes May with festivals

By Leoncio Balbin
Sinait, Ilocos Sur

MAY is the country's merriest month and so festivals are all around.

In Ilocos Sur, officials of Sinait town and the provincial capital of Vigan have lined up festivities this month to attract tourists and at the same time, feature their towns' respective products.

Sinait, considered the "garlic center of the north," staged the Second Garlic Festival on May 1-3 to highlight the town's importance as a garlic trading center in Northern Luzon.

Mayor Edgar Yabes said the local government and other agencies decided to hold the festival to uplift the local garlic industry and promote its agro-tourism potential.

The festival featured street dancing competitions, a cooking contest, the search for the biggest garlic bulb, a garlic bundling contest and a beauty pageant dubbed as the "Garlic Festival Queen."

The celebration coincided with the town's annual fiesta and the feast of Apo Santo Cristo Milagroso or "Apo Lakay."

Cynthia Lazo, director of the Bureau of Domestic Tourism of the Department of Tourism, said Sinait has tourism potential because of its pilgrimage sites, attractive beaches, and its garlic products and festival.

Lazo underscored the need for community support to boost the town's tourism industry.

"Like in event tourism, it is a people's industry. We need to motivate them to produce better crops because their output would contribute to the industry," Lazo said.

Garlic in Sinait sells from P30 to P85 a kilo-gram.

Every Friday, Sinait's "market day," farmers and traders from various provinces troop to the town to buy and sell an average of 20 tons of garlic.

To support farmers, the Sinait government will distribute in October cloves for planting under the "Plant Now, Pay Later" program.

Viva Vigan

The Ninth Viva Vigan Festival in Vigan last week featured the city's famous traditional woven product, *abel iloko*.

This year's Viva Vigan was dubbed as "Binatbatan," the old Ilocano term to describe the initial step in the process of Ilocano *abel* weaving.

"Binatbatan" is the beating of cotton balls to remove the seeds from cotton in preparation to produce the sturdy cotton yarn for the *abel*.

Vigan City Mayor Eva Marie Medina said they decided to call the festival "Binatbatan" to promote cultural awareness among Bigneños by reminding them to "remove negative attitudes and harness only the good traits and traditions transmitted by their forefathers."

Anda's . . . (From page 18)

books because we were not (believers of Islam), and we respected that," Lopez said.

He said the police also found seven rifle grenades, five fragmentation grenades, magazines, revolvers, bullets and documents. These were either hidden in bushes or left inside foxholes.

On Sunday, the police unearthed three land mines near a foxhole close to the compound's entrance.

Lopez said these were not installed yet, but several holes had been dug around the area, probably where the mines would be installed.

"There was no way of knowing what was happening inside," said Joseph Carolino, 39, a resident of Barangay Mal-ong.

Something sinister

But the residents suspected that "something sinister" was happening inside the compound, especially when they heard gunshots coming from the area.

"We were happy when finally the police raided the place," Carolino, who helped the police scour the area for hidden firearms, told the *INQUIRER*.

The island town of Anda (pop. 38,000) has 18 villages occupying 15,000 hectares. "This is a small, old town where most residents are relatives and everyone knows everyone," Mayor Alicia Pulido said. "So when strangers arrive to stay, word easily spreads around that there are new residents."

In the case of the six suspected terrorists, residents thought they were merely vacationers, Pulido said.

"The suspects were friendly and courteous to the village folk," she said.

Maximino Celeste, Mal-ong barangay chair, said the group arrived in the village in October last year.

"They came in October last year, and Dawud (original name was David Tyrone de los Santos, leader of the group) regularly came to my house for a small chat. He wanted his 13 friends to become permanent residents of our village. They even wanted to become *barangay tanods* (village guards)," Celeste said.

Despite the strangers' "friendliness," Celeste said he did not grant their requests. He turned over to the police the application forms of the six suspects, whose addresses showed they were from Pangasinan or from Metro Manila.

Celeste said Santos also married a woman resident and built a small house for her in the village.

Lilian Camba, 53, the former caretaker of the fishponds of Santos' grandparents, said Santos was born in the village and attended elementary and secondary schools in the town.

He returned last year as a Muslim convert. Officials said the group never went out of the compound in big groups and never showed their weapons to the residents.

By Desiree Caluza
and Jovelyn Reyes
Kabayan, Benguet

IT is not every day that you get to bump into *anitos* (spirits) and Kabunian, the Cordillera's "Supreme Being."

But when you get the chance to "meet" them on your way up to Mt. Pulag, a sacred mountain of the Cordillerans and considered as the playground of the gods, just be careful, respect nature and be sensitive to cultural beliefs.

This is the warning Alfredo Lamses, 42, a member of Kalanguya tribe, routinely gives trekkers and climbers who visit Mt. Pulag in Kabayan, Benguet.

"*Naliligaw ang climber kapag umihihi siya. Kung malakas naman ang ulan, alam namin na may umihihi sa bundok. Hindi kasi gusto ng mga anito iyon* (A climber gets lost when he or she urinates in the mountain. If it is raining hard, we know that someone disrespected nature, the spirits do not like that)," Lamses said.

For the Kalanguya, Ibaloi and Kankanaey tribes, Mt. Pulag is a sacred mountain, being the home of the gods and spirits. Lamses said the mountain is the meeting place of fallen angels (*anitos*) and spirits that are on their way to meet Kabunian.

Benguet Board Member Wasing Sacla, a Kankanaey, said urinating in Mt. Pulag makes the spirits "uncomfortable."

"These spirits can make them (offenders) crazy or sick. If strangers want to go there, they should be accompanied by a local guide for them to be guided on the proper behavior while in the sacred mountain," Sacla said.

Guardian spirit

Information from the Mt. Pulag National Park describes Mt. Pulag as the dwelling place of the *kaajongan* or the



ATOP Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest peak.

guardian spirit.

It said the traditional Ibaloi believes that a man has at least two "souls," the *adia* and the *kaajongan*.

The *adia* is prone to "travel" and should any misfortune befall during its absence from the body, the person either gets sick or dies. The *kaajongan*, on the other hand, is a "life line" that goes to Mt. Pulag at death.

Among the Ibalois, the disturbance of certain places inhabited by spirits can bring misfortune in the form of rodent or insect infestations.

To rid the fields of these pests, a farmer asks a *mambunong* (native priest) to perform a ritual called *bakak*. A chicken or pig is offered to please the spirits and to ask them to "recall" the pests.

Headwater

Up to this day, Benguet's tribal folk are holding on to their beliefs that their souls would finally meet Kabunian in Mt. Pulag, the second highest mountain in the country at 2,922 meters above sea level.

Northern Luzon giant cloud rat (*Phloeomys pallidus*) and the endangered golden-crowned flying fox (*Acerodon jubatus*).

The mountain is home to 106 species of spore and seed bearing plants.

Residents and tribal folk around Mt. Pulag treat the mountain's wealth not only as scientific specimens but also the personal possessions of the spirits living in the sacred mountain.

Home of the gods

Emerita Tamiray, Mt. Pulag National Park superintendent, said local folk believe that more than 50 native gods are taking care of the mountain's 804-hectare grassland summit. She said the *amed*, the dead ancestors of the Ibalois, are guarding Mt. Pulag's 5,877-hectare mossy forest.

The tribes living near the mountain believe that shouting or making unnecessary noise in Mt. Pulag will trigger heavy rains, unusual thunderstorms and unpredictable weather. Obscene language and acts also displease the gods.

In 1999, the Kalanguyas pressured the Kabayan municipal council to bar tourists from the park because of fear that they will make noise and use firecrackers to welcome the new millennium. The park re-opened only in February 2000.

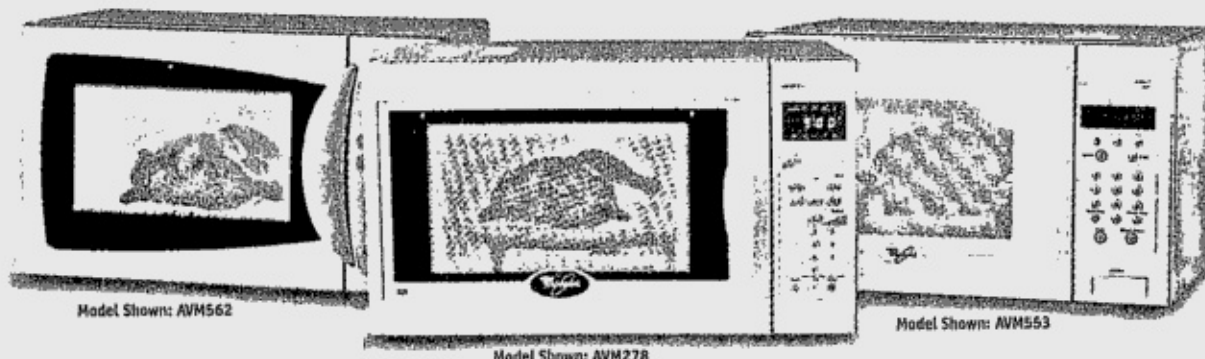
Tamiray said kissing in public is also considered offensive, except during matrimonial celebrations, as it can cause *sakem* (ill fate or misfortune) on people who shared the space with them. Only the tribal priests can free them from *sakem*.

Traveling at night without flashlight in the mountain is also dangerous as it may cause enchantment by the mountain spirits or *emandebas* (unseen travelers). The Kalanguyas and Ibalois, Tamiray said, believe that anybody who meets the *emandebas* may die if the proper ritual is not applied immediately.

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Congress greed for pork slammed

From page A1

for legislators and other officials.

Kickbacks range from a low 19 percent to a high 52 percent of the project cost, according to a former congressman. The recipients are not only legislators but also governors and mayors.

Because of the kickbacks, many infrastructure projects like roads are shoddy.

The P34.8-billion budget for infrastructure projects next year is separate from the regular pork bar-

rel called the Priority Development Assistance Fund, which also involves projects identified by House members and funded by various departments.

A House member gets at least P35 million in infrastructure projects. A senator gets P100 million.

The say of legislators on the huge infrastructure budget has prompted a growing number of public works engineers to enlist the help of members of Congress for their promotion, according to an official of the District and City En-

gineers League (Dacel).

"Legislators now call the shots at the DPWH," a Manila-based district engineer said. "They are not engineers or architects, why don't they just stick to making and passing laws?"

Told about the complaints from his men, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said it was Congress that put the infrastructure projects under the name of senators and congressmen.

"They want to ensure that their congressional districts get an equi-

table share of the infrastructure funds. They are only looking after the interest of their constituents," said Datumanong, a former House deputy speaker.

"We pass the projects through them as a matter of courtesy," he said.

In the House, representatives are seeking a new sharing formula for the infrastructure budget. They have yet to choose from 13 alternatives to the present system of dividing the pie.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon said only 50 out of the 209 congressional districts were "gaining" under the present system.

Gainers

Failon said many members of the House were in favor of Alternative 6 because it would allow 136 congressional districts to become "gainers."

The House appropriations committee noted that under Alternative 6 the total allocation for 136 congressional districts would increase while those for 73 districts would decrease. Other schemes will have gainers ranging from 104 to 131.

The present formula is based on a point system: 25 percent, equal share; 20 percent, population; and 55 percent, need for infrastructure. It includes foreign-assisted projects (FAPs). Scheme 6, which seeks equal share for each district, does not include FAPs.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin said many House members wanted to change the system of allocating the infrastructure budget because it had always been "in favor of developed areas."

It's time to shift the bias to Mindanao and other under-developed areas, according to Salapuddin.

He said Metro Manila and certain urban centers were the "gainers" in

the present sharing scheme while Mindanao, the Visayas and rural Luzon were "always the losers."

Salapuddin said that one of his colleagues had complained at a House appropriations committee hearing that some districts destroyed some of their roads and bridges to build new ones so they could spend the budget allocated to their districts.

"Some well-off areas are getting twice or thrice the amount that rural areas get," Salapuddin said, citing his province of Basilan as among the most neglected areas.

He said developed areas also get the bulk of the FAPs.

Congressmen are quarreling over how to distribute the infrastructure budget across the country because an increase for one district would mean a decrease for another.

After two weeks of debates, some 60 members of the House appropriations and public works committees were set to vote last Monday on one of the 13 alternative schemes.

The controversy was heightened by a separate decision by the public works committee to approve Alternative 6.

But congressmen said the scheduled joint voting of the two committees would result in a showdown all the way to the plenary when the committee report was submitted to all the House members to approve.

To avoid a showdown, the committees voted 32-20 to postpone the Monday voting.

Because of the deadlock, the sharing formula is now back to the drawing board.

Fine-tuning

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the powerful appropriations committee, said a

smaller panel of 11 House members and DPWH Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion were tasked with "fine-tuning" the sharing formula.

The panel held a meeting at 4:30 p.m. yesterday to find a compromise formula.

Failon and Salapuddin are pessimistic that a "win-win" formula will be found.

"No matter how we try, there is no formula in which everybody is a gainer," Salapuddin said.

Failon is fighting the present system because his district was put at a disadvantage. Leyte gets only P3 million because the foreign-assisted project for the renovation of San Juanico Bridge is being credited to his infrastructure fund.

Failon said he could understand Quirino Rep. Junie Cua's objections to Alternative 6. The share of Cua's district, which is currently getting P70 million, will decrease if the present system is changed.

"No matter what scheme is adopted, there will be discontented congressmen. There will be furious objections because this is a very grave issue. This will polarize the House," Failon said.

Andaya downplayed the fight among House members, saying that the committees are in search of a "mutually acceptable formula."

Andaya said his committee decided to take a second look at the present allocation scheme after receiving complaints from other House members that their districts were placed at a disadvantage.

"My personal belief is that the budget should not be like a box of chocolates in which you don't know what you'll get," he said in a statement.



GMA IN BANGKOK

President Macapagal, accompanied by Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, reviews the honor guard upon her arrival at the military airport in Bangkok Tuesday for a two-day official visit.

AP

One in six RP kids has to work—NSO

From page A1

rural areas.

The majority of them worked as unskilled, unpaid laborers in family farms, the NSO said.

Others worked in shops or as vendors in forestry or fisheries.

Agriculture accounts for about 40 percent of the Philippines labor force.

An estimated 1.1 million chil-

dren faced physical hazards.

Many of the children were exposed to silica and sawdust, along with "danger of biological infections."

Almost 221,000 of the children did "heavy physical work," the NSO said.

About 942,000 of them said they had suffered injuries at work while 754,000 said they suffered work-

related illnesses like body aches, pains and skin diseases.

Despite the burden, about 46 percent of the children said they "never" found their work stressful, while 31 percent said it was "sometimes" stressful and only 5 percent said it was always stressful, the NSO found.

Of the 4 million children who worked during the survey period,

65.9 percent attended school at the time with 78 percent of them saying that their schooling was not affected by their labor.

However 1.2 million children said their schooling suffered because of their work. Two in five dropped out of school.

Government figures show that about four in 10 Filipinos are poor, living on less than P38 a day. **AFP**

Pinoy wins Sept. 11 coin design contest

From page A1

ics design software maker Corel Corp. and Squareonegraphics.com.

Rubio's design was chosen, according to Corel Corp., because of his use of the US flag to represent the point of impact of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

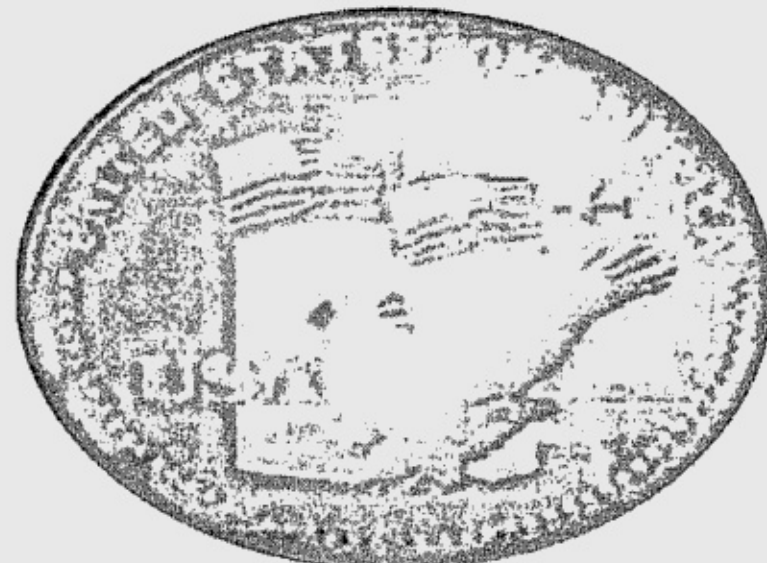
"The concept I made showed two buildings with the US flag in the portion where the airplanes hit. The thought of this design is to simplify the terrorists' target—the USA," he told reporters here.

Rubio said he also used a drawing of the bald eagle, America's symbol, to depict the people of America as one nation.

"Around the main interface are stars with the same number that you'll see in their flag, along with the text United States of America and the date of the attack," he added.

Rubio's design reportedly captured the judges' approval for its balance and composition.

The contest started last month.



Rubio used CorelDraw in creating the coin interface and brought it to Corel Photopaint for the final rendering.

Another honor

The Corel coin design contest is not the only honor Rubio brought

to Davao.

Recently, he also placed sixth out of the 150 designer-participants from all over the world for the poster design and brochure layout for the Corel World Conference in Boston.

Rubio, who teaches animation and web design, drawing and paint applications, is a member of CorelDraw Users Group (an internet-based forum) and was one of the moderators for online tutorials in Squareonegraphics.com.

"I started to share my knowledge using a particular program through tutorials in my site, which was called 'dorianplanet.' I got great response from aspiring designers in the US and from as far as South Africa. Unfortunately, due to lack of time on the net, my site became outdated and became offline," Rubio said.

Rubio, a computer science graduate of AMA, said he had been fond of drawing since he was 7 years old.

"I never stopped learning both drawing and painting until I discovered myself having an eye for digital designs. It was the time that I embraced computer-related jobs in one of the desktop publishing houses (in the city)," Rubio said.

From page A1

tive quarters. Eleven percent of the respondents said they experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the previous three months. The figure was 10.4 percent in November 2001 and 9.3 percent in September 2001.

Government figures show 39.4 percent of the population of about 80 million live on less than a P50 a day, a marked increase from the 32-percent level before the mid-1997 Asian crisis.

There was also a marked pessimism on overall economic pros-

pects for the Philippines, with 38 percent believing it would worsen over the short term and 17 percent thinking it would improve, the SWS poll found.

Last year 28 percent were optimistic and 25 percent were pessimistic.

SWS had earlier said that the poll, which had a margin for error of plus or minus three percentage points, found that President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval rating remained high at 48 percent, "with no sign of transfer of public sympathy to the opposition." **AFP**



ARROYO: Only one bill



ANGARA: Peddling untruth

Joker-Edong...

From page A1

anew.

The word war was triggered by Arroyo's reaction to Angara's earlier allegation that the government was set to arrest him and other opposition senators to link them to destabilization activities on Labor Day.

Arroyo countered that Angara was "creating his own phantoms."

On Monday, Angara delivered a privileged speech accusing Arroyo of "poisoning the well of goodwill and fraternity" in the Senate.

Yesterday, Arroyo rose and delivered a scathing attack on Angara whom he described as being "hypersensitive."

Borrowing the words of the late US President Harry Truman, Arroyo said, "If you cannot stand the heat of the kitchen, get out."

In his privilege speech, Arroyo reminded Angara of "bitter political debates" of former "intellectual giants" in the chamber.

He mentioned the late Senators Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Camilo Osias, Tomas Confesor and Cipriano Primicias.

School of virgin oysters

"If Senator Angara have his way, he will have us behave like a school of happy, virgin oysters," Arroyo said. "Oysters are wonderful if you like them but they stir no foundation."

Arroyo said Angara used the alleged plan to arrest him as a ruse

to stay out of last week's summit of all political parties.

"When the untruth is peddled to the public, it is hypocritically given the semblance of an honorable disguise," Arroyo said.

Angara promptly rose to interpellate Arroyo but was prevailed upon by other senators to desist.

But he had the last word. Angara delivered a strongly worded statement, describing Arroyo's speech as "very typical of this gentleman in all his public statements."

Only in bill

Angara also noted that of the 2,700 bills filed in the Senate, Arroyo filed only one.

Angara likewise took Arroyo to task for his performance as chair of the powerful blue ribbon committee.

Of the 15 cases of alleged government irregularities which were referred to the committee, Arroyo has scheduled hearings for only two cases, Angara said.

In his speech, Arroyo said he would have been the first to question the arrest of Angara if such was indeed the government intention.

"We would not stand for that even if we belong to the administration coalition," Arroyo said.

Arroyo recalled the he and four other senators were personally assured by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the evening of May 1 that there was no plan to arrest Angara.

Peso seen hitting 49.20 to the dollar

From page A1

Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura forecast a range of 48 to 49 against the country remain politically stable and the economy continue to recover, but he warned against speculative activities that could falsely boost the peso and endanger the country's export competitiveness.

A trader from a foreign bank revealed that the central bank bought as much as \$40 million from the spot market to temper the peso's appreciation. Without the intervention, he said, the peso would have hit 49 to the dollar.

"Sometimes, there are also speculative activities when the peso is appreciating; that is why the central bank is on guard," Buenaventura said.

"Based on forecasts of economists, if things are normal, the peso could remain at the 48 to 49 level. If there are aberrations, it could return to 50," he said. "It's hard to say. What's important is that we keep the peso-dollar rate consistent with other competing currencies for the export market."

The peso on Monday ignored the likelihood of low interest rates

continuing and strengthened past 50 to the dollar to hit a 13-month high of 49.775 from Friday's 50.1, as other regional currencies continued to rally against the dollar.

Traders said the peso's gain was boosted by demand from funds and exporters.

"I would say this is due to a number of factors. The months of April and May are remittance months because it's the school enrollment season, so we have high remittances (from Filipinos working overseas)," Buenaventura said of the rise.

"With our April inflation number at 3.6 percent and the budget deficit under control, we have portfolio investments coming in. There's also the perception that the exports decline seemed to have bottomed out. The drop in March exports was the smallest this year and there are expectations exports will recover for the rest of the year."

Weakness

The dollar's weakness has been generally attributed to disappointments in the pace of US recovery, with some analysts saying that the world's largest economy has not been recover-

ing as swiftly as expected.

A trader from a foreign bank predicts that the peso will hit 49.20 this week and may even breach the 48 level unless the central bank intervenes by buying more dollars.

Traders revealed that out of \$252 million in transactions at the spot market, the central bank accounted for about \$30 million to \$40 million.

While the BSP claims that market forces determine the exchange rate, it has been known to intervene by selling dollars when the peso is weak and buying dollars to stem an appreciation.

Opening stronger at 49.66, the peso even rose to a day high of 49.44 before the central bank's entry chopped off its gains, allowing the local currency to rise by only 13 centavos from Monday's 49.775.

Buenaventura said another factor behind the strong peso was the stable political environment.

"Even if the dollar was weak, if we have political instability, the peso will not gain strength. It's really a combination of a lot of factors," he said.

Industry sources said exporters have become alarmed by the peso's appreciation.

Exporters have reportedly asked the central bank to intervene to temper the peso's appreciation.

An economist from Standard Chartered Bank said the peso could hit 46.50 to a dollar in the next three months, but Buenaventura said this level was too optimistic.

Buenaventura stressed that the central bank would ensure that the peso's recovery would be in line with other currencies in the region to protect the country's exporters.

"We are watchful of an undue appreciation, and we would ensure that there would be no volatile movements. We don't want those getting unduly short on the dollars," he said.

Buenaventura has said repeatedly that he prefers a stable—not necessarily a stronger—local currency.

"The current level of the peso is good enough because we have to make our exports competitive as well as our domestic economy. A very strong currency would attract other countries to export to the Philippines, and our exports would not be as competitive," he said earlier.

The government expects export receipts to grow by one to 1.5 percent from a contraction of almost 16 percent last year.

Convent admits 2 to 3 priests' victims yearly

From page A1

to keep silent when sought by the INQUIRER for comment on the number of priests who have breached their vow of celibacy.

Sister Eboria

"Woe to us priests, the sisters are braver than us in cleaning up the mess we have done," said Fr. Robert Reyes, parish priest of the UP Diliman chapel. The only Filipino priest so far who has been vocal about the sexual behavior of men of the cloth, Reyes praised the RGS sisters for helping his fellow priests.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Sr. Lydia Eboria clarified that the Malabon institution founded in 1957 was not established primarily to shield wayward priests from scandals.

"Our's is not an institution to shield priests," she said, adding that they report such cases to the bishops for them to take action against the priest.

"We are not out to save his vocation, but to recommend rehabilitation... so the priest will not do it again," Eboria said.

"We tell the bishops the extent of the problem. We call the attention of the priest if he needs counseling," she said.

She said she was satisfied with the action taken by bishops on erring priests.

'Suspension of faculties'

According to her, the priests are imposed penalties such as a "suspension of faculties"—meaning they are temporarily barred from administering the holy sacraments. They are also reassigned to other parishes.

But she did admit that some bishops do ask their help regarding priests with sexual problems in their various areas of assignment.

RGS mission

She explained that the primary mission of the RGS sisters all over the world is to provide help to distressed single, unwed women and girls who are in crisis or in need of healing.

"Whoever is victimized, we accept them," she said. Apart from giving "shelter to unwed mothers," they also attend to victims of rape, incest, violence and women in "difficult situation and who are at risk."

Asked whether there is an arrangement between RGS and the CBCP for the RGS to take care of women who bear the children of priests, Eboria replied: "There is no arrangement with the CBCP."

'Church property'

"Church property," the children of priests are called in jest, a source who's a priest told the INQUIRER last Tuesday.

Fr. Robert Reyes said that bishops could no longer afford to distance themselves from the problem.

"One of our greatest fault is not denial, but procrastination," he said. "If in the process of procrastination there will be more victims of priests, we will all bear the cross of inaction."

Reyes is not happy about the statement from Quevedo that the protocol on pedophilia and sexual misconduct that the CBCP is working on will not be completed until 2003.

Filipino priest named in US sex scandal

From page A1

past actions."

"The word of liability can be read a number of different ways," said Tod Tamberg, a spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

"I think the overall sense of the letter is that you are not welcome here. Do not come back."

The documents surfaced last week when Mahony was sued under federal racketeering laws for allegedly covering up past sexual abuses by priests.

On Monday, Tamberg said the archdiocese was prepared to help Milla identify her father.

The priest in question, Father Tamayo, is now dead. In 1991, plagued by guilt, Tamayo came back and confessed. He issued a public apology to Milla's mother, Rita, and admitted he molested and later seduced her.

He had kept the letters showing the Church knew he was in the Philippines and paid him to stay there.

Though Mahony has denied any knowledge of the Milla case, the letters had surfaced connecting Mahony and his predecessors to its cover-up.

The scandal

Rita Milla, now 40, said she was a devout 16-year-old Catholic girl who aspired to be a nun when she was first molested by Father Tamayo in the confessional at St. Philomena Church in Carson.

Two years later, Milla said she engaged in sexual intercourse with Tamayo, whom she claims also introduced her to six other Catholic priests with whom she had sex.

In 1982, Milla became pregnant by one of the priests. Tamayo reportedly came up with a plan to send her to the Philippines, where she could have the baby without attracting publicity.

They allegedly scared her into keeping their secret and sent her to the Philippines where she almost died during childbirth of eclampsia.

"I almost died protecting them. That's the part that woke me up. I went to the archdiocese really, really confident that they were going to listen to me."

But after the archdiocese did nothing, Rita and her mother filed the landmark clergy malpractice suit in 1984, seeking to establish paternity, set up child support and sue the priests and the Church for civil conspiracy and "to protect other young women from the pain and suffering caused by priests who abuse their position of trust," Allred said.

The state Supreme Court dismissed the case, saying the Church was not responsible for the behavior of its priests and that too much time had elapsed.

As part of a settlement, which the church said was not an admission of liability, the Los Angeles archdiocese set up in 1988 a \$20,000 trust fund for Jacqueline Milla.

"I think that was indicative of a genuine concern and compassion for the child," Tamberg said.

Allred disagreed. She said Jacqueline Milla was entitled to additional compensation.

"The settlement was in a lawsuit brought by Rita, not the child," she said.

Help to ID father

"We are open to her request to help her find her father and we invite her to contact us with any information," Tamberg said. He also said that Mahony, who was released from a hospital Monday after being treated for blood clotting in his lung, was under a doctor's orders to "relax" for two weeks.

"Right now, we have not scheduled any new appointments for him," Tamberg said.

Allred said she served Mahony with a letter, not a lawsuit.

"We do believe the child may have certain legal rights," she said, calling on the church to "do the right thing."

Allred said that would require the Church to track down the implicated priests who are still living and obtain DNA evidence from them. She also called on Mahony to apologize and compensate Jacqueline Milla for the loss of her "parental relationship," and to acknowledge the church's role in transferring priests implicated in sexual abuse.

Jacqueline Milla said she was not sure what she would say if she found the priest who impregnated her mother. But she said she wanted to "know what he looks like."

"After 19 years of living without knowing him, I think it is only fair that I not spend another year not knowing where part of me came from," she said.

AP, CBS

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Deal reached to end 36-day standoff in Bethlehem

From page A1

not yet been made.

A resolution of the conflict was expected to lead to a speedy Israeli troop withdrawal from Bethlehem, effectively ending Israel's military offensive in the West Bank.

The offensive was launched March 29 against Palestinian militants after a wave of deadly suicide bombings in Israel.

In Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was to meet later Tuesday with US President George W. Bush who has been pushing for an end to Israeli incursions into Palestinian-run areas.

In Bethlehem, Mayor Hanna Nasser, a Palestinian, said a few logistical problems needed to be worked out to end the standoff.

"We are glad that the tragedy has ended," he said, adding that he believed the deal could be implemented by the end of the day.

Very, very close

An Israeli Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz, said the sides were finalizing the last details and were "very, very close" to a deal.

More than 200 people fled into the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem's main landmark, ahead of invading Israeli forces on April 2.

They included several dozen gunmen, including some accused by Israel of involvement involved in attacks against Israelis.

Also inside are civilians, clerics and police, as well as 10 demonstrators who slipped past the Israelis into the church last week to show solidarity with the Palestinians.

Early Tuesday, the 39 gunmen in the church signed documents saying they agreed to their intended destinations—either Gaza or Italy.

A church source said that the 39 gunmen would have to remain abroad until there is a Palestinian state.

Last-minute pressure

Those slated for deportation came under some last-minute pressure not to accept.

The leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, called one of his followers in the compound, Aziz Abayat, and told him that in going into exile, he would not have the group's backing.

"Sheik Yassin told us that... anyone who accepts exile does not represent the movement's position," Abayat said.

A senior leader of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, Hussein al-Sheik, criticized the Palestinian Authority for accepting exile as an option, saying it set a dangerous precedent.

Many Palestinians consider deportations as the bitterest of punishments. Israel ended the practice a decade ago.

As word spread in Bethlehem that the standoff might end soon, some of relatives of those slated for deportation flocked to Manger Square, hoping to be able to say goodbye to those inside the church.

Zahia Khamis, 72, came to bid farewell to her nephew, Anan, an activist in the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Speaking to her nephew by mobile phone, she

said: "I am crying because you are leaving your town. I know it is not your choice, but take care."

Khamis said her nephew told her he had no option but to accept exile.

Negotiations

The outline of the Bethlehem deal was put together in intensive negotiations over the past few days. The CIA, Vatican and European Union were all involved in efforts to end the confrontation.

Israel dropped its demand for the surrender or exile of all the gunmen in the church, and the Palestinians agreed to exile some of them. Over the past day, the haggling has been over the number to be exiled.

Before dawn Tuesday, two Palestinian liaison officers with the Israeli military, Ribhi Arafat and Farouk Amin, entered the Church of the Nativity to obtain the agreement of the 13 to being sent into exile.

According to a Palestinian list of names obtained by The Associated Press, nine Al Aqsa militants, three Hamas members and Daoud are slated for deportation.

Israel has accused several of those on the list Israel of involvement in bombing and shooting attacks on Israelis.

One of the Al Aqsa gunmen, Ibrahim Moussa Abayat, killed two Israelis and an American, Avi Boaz, according to Israel.

Daoud denied Israel's allegations that he organized attacks on Israelis, produced explosives, smuggled weapons, and provided shelter to members of terror groups.

The intelligence chief, who holds a B.A. degree in political science from a West Bank university, said he hoped to continue his education in Italy.

Outside the church, in Manger Square, Israeli armored vehicles patrolled the area.

Israeli troops brought down a crane, which had dangled cameras to give the Israelis a view of the compound, made up of the 4th-century basilica itself and churches, hostels and monasteries around it.

In Bethlehem's open-air vegetable market near Manger Square, Israeli troops found nine hidden pipe bombs Tuesday, and blew them up in controlled explosions.

Key issue

In Washington, a key issue in the Bush-Sharon talks is expected to be Arafat's role in future peace talks. Israel wants Arafat sidelined, but the United States has been pressing Sharon to deal with Arafat as the leader of the Palestinians.

Addressing US Jewish leaders late Monday, Sharon said that "structural reforms in the Palestinian Authority" were needed before peace could be achieved, but did not mention Arafat by name.

Early Tuesday, Israeli forces entered the West Bank town of Tulkarem. The military said their mission was to stop the sending of suicide bombers and "attack the terrorist infrastructure."

A military statement said the operation would last "a short time."

Also Tuesday, on the Gaza-Egypt border, a 17-year-old Palestinian was killed and two were wounded when Israeli forces opened fire, while destroying a building, residents said.

The Israeli military said armed Palestinians attacked soldiers, who returned fire, hitting two. The area is the scene of almost daily clashes. AP

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Roco firm on Palaro scrapping; Jaworski tells Buhain to abide

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DESPITE the last-minute plea by the Philippine Sports Commission, Education Secretary Raul Roco stood pat on his decision to cancel the 2002 Palaring Pambansa scheduled early next month in Naga City.

Roco maintained that the June 2-9 date is too close to the enrollment for the coming school year and though the PSC managed to come up with the P36 million initial budget, he

found the Palaring calendar of events "unacceptable."

Sen. Robert Jaworski asked PSC chair Eric Buhain to accept the "wiser decision" of Roco, saying it is best to hold the Palaring in January when the weather is cooler.

But Buhain stressed that moving the Palaring to January next year is tantamount to scrapping the Games altogether "because the district and regional eliminations of the Palaring are being held around that time."

Buhain said the PSC was not responsible for the Games' first postponement, saying Naga City and the sports agency were prepared to hold it May 19-24 but the Department of Education management committee requested that it be moved to a later date.

On Monday, Roco declared the postponement, citing the delay of the budget promised by the PSC.

But the PSC received the budget from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office the day Roco canceled the Palaring.

Roco also said in his letter to Buhain that some events were added even though the said events, like basketball, could not win gold medals in international contests.

He also cited that "June is enrollment time and preparation for school opening."

Said Roco: "The DepEd cannot sacrifice the education of our children on account of your delays."

Barcial shares limelight

CARMONA, Cavite—Mark Barcial, Ivan Santiago, Jun Galvez, Benjamin Dolores, Gerry Quinones, Arnold Tejada and Bart Cruz shared the limelight in the second leg of the 2002 Shell Advance Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Barcial, who is hoping to step out of the shadows of his more popular brother Jaime Barcial, displayed superb riding skills to take top honors in the centerpiece expert open category in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Santiago, however, bounced back with a victory in the 70cc category over Jojo Reyes, Ritchie Arbrina, Manding Acuna and Albert Sarmiento.

Galvez outlasted Get Denoso, Edwin Buenaventura, Richard Roque and Winston Flores to rule in 90cc. Jet 100 category, while Dolores overcame Edwin Mauricio, Kim de Leon, Geoffrey Aguisanda and Iraq Bauzon in the Yamaha Force 1 class.

For other information, call E.L. Racing Tech at tel. 660-2071.



MAVERICK NASH

Dallas Mavericks' Steve Nash (right) scores on a layup against Sacramento Kings' Bobby Jackson during their NBA Western Conference semifinals yesterday at the Arco Arena in Sacramento. Nash had 30 points and eight assists as the Mavericks evened the series with a 110-102 victory over the top-seeded Kings. AP

Fan P.1M richer; LBC faces Lhuillier

GAME TODAY (Lipa Cultural Center)
6 p.m.—Cebu vs Batangas

GILBERT Olap just wanted to watch the MBA First Conference games last Sunday. Little did he know that he'd go home P100,000 richer.

For making his lone attempt from mid-court, Olap won the P100,000 staked in the inaugural LBC Longshot Basketball Challenge at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center. It was held during the halftime break of the LBC Batangas-Osaka Pangasinan tussle.

The 26-year-old Olap was among five ticket holders chosen for the LBC Longshot Basketball Challenge. Each received P500 before taking the mid-court shot.

The LBC Longshot Basketball Challenge will be a regular feature of the MBA games on Saturdays and Sundays, according to Javi Mantecon, LBC marketing director. For every staging that no one makes the mid-court shot, P10,000 will be added to the P100,000 pot.

Today's lone game pits Cebuana Lhuillier against LBC Batangas at 6 p.m. also at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center.

Both the Gems and the Blades are gunning for semifinal berths, with the Blades ranked at second in the Northern Conference with a 4-win, 3-loss mark. The Gems are lodged at third in the Southern Conference with a 5-3 card.

Cebuana Lhuillier is trying to recover from a 97-75 beating it received from Professional Davao on Sunday, while LBC Batangas is bidding to follow up its 89-86 conquest of Osaka Pangasinan.

LBC Batangas, the reigning national titlist, will draw firepower from Eddie Laure, Jeffrey Sanders and Alex Compton, while Cebuana Lhuillier will bank on Bruce Dacia, Stephen Padilla and Jerclues Tangkay. Roy Luarca

Billiards blockbuster

IF plans do not miscarry, some of the world's toughest dudes and most dynamic shooters on the US Professional Billiards Tour such as Earl Strickland, Johnny Archer and rising star Cory Deuel will meet their counterparts from the Philippines led by renowned Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in a "Dream Series" tentatively set here in June.

By all means, let's go for it. As far as I am concerned, hosting the event here would be a good opportunity for the Philippines because it would take away the world's attention from the crises that beset our strife-torn country at present. It would also show to the world that the Philippines, after all, is a safe and peaceful place to visit.

Officials of the Games and Amusements Board headed by chair Eduardo Villanueva said the planned series will be under the aegis of Puyat Sports, which has, through the years, built a gilt-edged reputation of producing champion pool players and hosting widely successful international tournaments. Of course, government agencies such as the Department of Tourism, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office would be ideal supporters of this proposed event aside from the private sector led by boss Danding Cojuangco of San Miguel Corp.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL? Is there hope in the early solution of the unsettling situation at the Philippine Sports Commission? Maybe.

Just yesterday, Sen. Robert Barbers was shown all smiles (in a newspaper photo) after he brokered a peace pact between feuding PSC chair Eric Buhain and commissioner Cynthia Carrión, who were also shown shaking hands in the same photo. Still, some cynics say, "Kalokohan 'lang' iyan."

Shaking hands in public, they stress, does not erase the fact that Buhain raised some serious charges like malversation of public funds against Carrión, an allegation which the lady commissioner, who is very upset, strongly denied. "Chairman Buhain accuses me of misuse of PSC funds," said Carrión. "If he has proof then he should produce the proof and take action against me. If he has no proof, which I know he has not, then his accusation left himself open for a suit for libel."

La Salle, Ateneo to go at it again

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
1:45 p.m.—Shark vs RP Youth
4 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña
6 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation

WITH the solo lead at stake, rivals Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and ICTSI-La Salle clash for the second straight time in the PBL Chairman's Cup tonight at the Makati Coliseum.

While eyeing to avenge their 63-57 setback on April 24 at the hands of the Blue Eagles, the Green Archers are also looking to nail down their seventh win which will assure them of a semifinal slot.

A repeat, however, by Ateneo (5-2) will give the Eagles the solo lead and move them to within a win of entering the five-team semifinals.

The La Salle-Ateneo clash at 6 p.m. is the final game of a heavy triple bill.

Challenge Cup titlist Shark En-

ergy Drink (4-4) is poised to stretch its winning run to five when it tackles RP Youth at 1:45 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. match between Blu Sun Power (3-4) and Montaña, whose 2-6 record doesn't do justice to its strong lineup.

Coaches Joel Banal of Ateneo and La Salle's Franz Pumaren expect another thriller. La Salle was in control of the first encounter, but Ateneo, helped by Rich Alvarez and Celino Cruz's triples, proved steadier down the stretch to escape with the win.

Playmaker Mike Cortez, whose measly four-point output hastened the Archers' downfall, will lead La Salle's bid. Cortez, who is currently in second place of the MVP statistical race will be supported by Ronald Cuan and newly acquired Chico Lanete, a star from the NCRAA.

La Salle's main headache, however, is how to contain Ateneo workhorse Enrico Villanueva, whose fiery inside plays are lifting the Blue Eagles to victories.

Sudac snares archery title

SUDAC (Silliman University-Dumaguete Archery Club) bets captured the men's and women's team titles in the just-concluded national archery championships at the UP-PSG range in Diliman, Quezon City.

Bannered by Sydney Olympian Jennifer Chan, two-time SEA Games gold medalist Joann Tabanag and Rachelle Ann Cabral, the Silliman-Dumaguete squad tallied 224 points to beat Tamaraw's Adelinda Figueroa, Jasmin Figueroa and Abigail Tindugan by five points in the women's recurve event.

Sudac's Arnold Rojas, Mark Javier and Aaron dela Cruz also tallied 224 to nip Canama Archery Club's Christian Cubilla, Marvin Cordero and Edward Figueroa and Davao's Brya Carlo Figueroa, Syd Nerczon Frigal and Florante Matan in the men's bracket.

IPK-2 Team A's Earl Yap, Carlos Carag and Raul Arambulo ruled the compound bow division team event by scoring 237 points. IPK-2 Team B's Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, Nestor de Castro and Alex Alvarez finished second with 209 while Misco's Manuel, Artemio Barriga and Benito Penzon Jr. checked in third with 200.

GMA Speaker's Cup guest at Wack Wack

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will hit the ceremonial tee off of the 1st Speaker's Cup tomorrow at Wack Wack.

Tee off will be by shotgun at 10 a.m. in the tournament sponsored by the members of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. headed by Gina de Venecia.

The event is for the benefit of The Haven for Streetchildren in Muntinlupa City.

Tinio barges into Coca-Cola netfest quarters

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—La Salle's Chase Tinio downed James Soldevillo, 6-3, 6-4, Monday night to enter the boys' 18-under quarterfinals of the first Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships at the New Subic Bay International Sports and Tennis Center here.

Olongapo City's Patrick John Tiero got a free ride to the quarters when Owen Ramos and Hans Prudencio failed to show up.

Earlier, Legaspi City's Catherine Flores and Davao's Arra Micayabas scored similar wins to reach the girls' 18-under quarterfinals division in this Group 1 event presented by Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. and supported by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicitio Payumo.

Flores defeated Davao City's Jessica Haro, 6-3, 6-2, to advance against Davao Oriental's Jasper

Joy Cabisong, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Gabrielle Bautista.

Micayabas downed May Herrera, 6-2, 6-3, to advance against Camille Espiritu, who rallied past Ma. Angelica Ngo, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Boys' 16-under top seed

Jandrick de Castro of La Salle-Greenhills, No. 3 Michael Basco of Letran, Oswaldo Dumoran of Cebu and Mauric Lao of Alkan also gained quarterfinal berths in this tournament sponsored by PLDT, Truflex, Union Bank, Union Cement, Wilson, Prince, Dunlop and Adidas.

RP Seniors Open blasts off

THE PHILIPPINE Seniors Open golf championship gets going today at the challenging Couples Course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Tee-off time is 8 a.m.

Defending champion Caloy Coscolluela will stake his crown against seasoned rivals like Carlo Gamban, himself a former champ, Danny Pizarro, Sengyo Kato,

Benny Gopez and Richie Garcia. OV Espiritu and Balti Baltazar are the players to watch.

The 54-hole tourney is sponsored by Taylor Made Adidas, Pan West, Pagcor, Pfizer, DHLWW Express and Masters, Sports/Mizuno. At stake as a hole-in-one prize is a Toyota Altis courtesy of Toyota Motors Philippines Inc.

The Seniors Open, conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines in coordination with the Federation of Philippine Senior Golfers Inc. features players 55 years and above who will be competing in five different categories. Aside from the 54-hole Open, there will be 36-hole events for 60-64 years, 65-69, 70-74 and 75 and above.



SAN BEDA GOLFEST

Organizers of the recent Bedan Alumni Golfest take a break with actor Richard Gomez (middle) at the Intramuros Golf Club. Rene Reinoso (extreme right), INQUIRER SVP for sales and marketing, is with Yama Ngo, lawyer Banjo Navarro and Odie Ilao. TV personality Dave Brodett emerged overall champion of the tournament sponsored by San Beda HS '53 and '78. Other winners were Edmond Arce (Class A), lawyer Ben Chi (Class B) and Ernesto Medina (Class C).

SPORTSWATCH

Leongson, Saulog maintain lead

SHELL-YAMAHA stalwarts Ernie Leongson and Jovie Saulog maintained their lead in the recent Pro Open and Pro 125 categories even as Caltex-Revtex-KTM star Glenn Aguilar suffered another accident in the resumption of the WG&A National Motocross series before a record crowd of 70,000 in Mandaue City. Leongson topped the Pro Open with 37 points for a two-leg aggregate of 71 and a seven-point lead over teammate Saulog, who kept his hold of the Pro 125 lead with 77 points after scoring a perfect 40 in the Mandaue leg. Aguilar, who broke his collarbone in the first leg, met a more serious accident this time.

McGrady inks lifetime deal

ADIDAS has signed a lifetime strategic partnership agreement with Orlando Magic star guard Tracy McGrady. The deal, which is for the duration of McGrady's basketball career and beyond, is the most significant contract adidas has ever signed with a professional athlete. "This is an unprecedented deal for adidas," said Erich Stamming of Adidas-Salomon AG. "Tracy is one of the most exciting and respected players in the NBA and we are impressed by his passion both on and off the court." McGrady is currently in the final year of his six-year contract with Adidas.



McGRADY

Peña, Bumgarner karting favorites

KART 1 protégé Dado Peña and M&M Racing's Michelle Bumgarner aim to repeat their feats in their respective classes when the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its fourth on May 11-12 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Peña, tagged as the next karting superstar, seeks to pull another upset over back-to-back winner Jeremy Marquez in the Intercon-A class of this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers. Peña broke away with a fastest laptime of 43.367 on the 19th lap for the surprise win.

Alabang 400 surprises Intervillage foes

ALABANG 400 pulled off a big surprise last Monday when it carded 280 Stableford points in the first round of the Nokia Intervillage South tournament at the exclusive Manila Golf and Country Club inside Forbes Park.

Mindanao Games launching today

CAGAYAN de Oro City—With the theme "Advancing Sports in Mindanao: A Vehicle for Peace and Unity," the Philippine Sports Commission will launch the 2002 Mindanao Friendship Games today at the Grand Caprice Hotel here.

The launching activity and consultative conference expect to gather some 150 governors, mayors of highly urbanized cities, sports council coordinators, sports educators, DepEd and DILG sports coordinators, media, and other stakeholders of the six regions of Mindanao.

"The Friendship Games is the PSC's response to the long neglect of Mindanao in sports," PSC chair Eric Buhan said. "Mindanao has been a rich breeding ground of talents in the past, producing some of the finest athletes over the years."

SPORTSWATCH

Jeobar risks title

BIG-TIME boxing returns to Bataan on May 10 at the Orion Municipal Plaza to coincide with its town fiesta. Reigning PBF lightweight champion Jeobar Damosmos fights PBF No. 2 contender Jun Geraldino of Cebu City for 12 rounds as its main event. Damosmos just won the title by KO over Longkit in the third round on April 6 in Balanga, Bataan. The challenger is handled by former IBF champion Dodie "Boy" Peñalosa, who will be at the corner of Geraldino. Three upcoming boxers from Bataan, Dennis Daldana, Richard Gano and Jun-Jun Amor, will see action in the preliminary bouts which start at 5 p.m. The "Battle of Bataan Part 2" is hosted by Gov. Ding Roman, Vice Gov. Boy Roque and Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

UPIS alumni golfest

THE UP Integrated School Class '77, as part of its silver jubilee celebration, will host the annual UPIS Alumni Open Golf Tournament on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 a.m. at the Langer Course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Alumni, faculty and friends of UP Elementary School, UP High School, UP Preparatory School and UP Integrated School are enjoined to support the tournament which seeks to generate funds for the upgrading of the school's libraries and facilities. Tournament fee is P2,500. Interested parties may contact Ms. Leah Navarro at 0917-8981957, lawyer Chico Bawagan at 0917-5412907 or lawyer Egay Tordesillas at egaytee@yahoo.com. The tournament is presented by Globe Telecom and TPG/PROZINERGY.

Speedo triathlon May 12

POWER, endurance and stamina-filled competition returns on May 12 when the Speedo TLP International Triathlon Challenge 2K2 is held in Mabini, Batangas. This is the third undertaking of Tanghalang Lakbay Pinoy (TLP), a media outfit involved in video production and organizer of special events, and Speedo. The event has the sanction of the Asian Triathlon Confederation and the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. Registration is on at the TLP office. Those interested may call Ms. Kina Lacorte at 9260723, 4263943 or log to www.planetgimmick.com.

Olympia-Tobias prevail

A TEAM of extreme sports enthusiasts parlayed what they do best in Metro Manila's concrete jungle and led the second batch of qualifiers to the 2002 Clorets Urban Hunt. Marcelito Olympia, a 27-year-old sub-distributor specialist, and Ma. Gina Tobias, a 26-year-old business development manager, put on a show of force, topping Saturday's second elimination leg of the 2002 Clorets Urban Hunt by a one-minute margin over three other teams which came in at virtually the same time. Olympia and Tobias, who competed under Team Extreme, checked in three hours and 54 minutes after being flagged off from the Rockwell Center Parking Lot in Makati City.

Red Sox beat Devil Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Ray Sanchez drove in two runs as the Boston Red Sox won their sixth in a row, beating Tampa Bay 5-3 Monday night to hand the Devil Rays their team record-tying 11th straight loss. Tampa Bay's slide matched the club mark set June 30-July 13, 1998, and also equaled the longest losing streak in the majors this year. Detroit opened the season with 11 consecutive losses. Brian Daubach hit a solo homer as Boston completed a four-game sweep. AP

Kournikova photos fake

NEW YORK—The daughter-in-law of fashion designer Luciano Benetton sued Penthouse magazine Monday, claiming topless pictures supposedly of tennis player Anna Kournikova actually were photographs of her. U.S. District Judge Denny Chin ordered the magazine to temporarily stop distributing the June issue to newsstands and blocked it from putting pictures on a Web site. AP

5-day race marks MJCI anniversary

MANILA Jockey Club Inc., the country's premier race club and pioneer race club in the Far East, marks its 135th founding anniversary with a spectacular five-day racing schedule starting tonight culminating on Sunday with the running of the marquee "1867 Founders' Cup" Stakes Race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Manila Jockey Club's annual tribute to its founders, members of the elite "socio fundadores" of 1867, is now on its 25th running and will be disputed by a starry cast of 12 locally bred chargers.

"More than a commemorative event, the running of the '1867 Founders' Cup Stakes Race is our humble way of expressing our gratitude to the various sectors of the local horse racing industry, particularly the racing fans, who have consistently patronized the club for more than a century," according to MJCI president and chief executive, lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

Similar to last year, the "1867 MJCI Founders' Cup" will also be known as the "Prieto Cup" in tribute to the members of the Prieto family, original incorporators of the club.



REYNO

Heading the field of challengers for the blue-ribbon "1867 Founders' Cup" Stakes Race this Sunday are recent stakes winners Family Task, Staunch Ally and Batangas Entry, who were similarly assessed top weight of 57 kg for the 1,900-meter journey.

Others in contention for the P600,000-guaranteed event are Be Quiet, Bull Rider, High Roller, Hyperbid, Ilocandia Slew, Kiwi Rose, Might And Power, Sky Hawk and Super Sharp. Winner of the race is guaranteed to receive P360,000, while the three other placers are assured of receiving P135,000; P75,000 and P30,000, from second to fourth places, respectively.

A replica of the permanent "1867 MJCI Founders' Cup" will be awarded to the owner of the winning horse, whose name would be added to the select list of previous cup winners inscribed in the original "Founders' Cup."

Last year's winner of the cup was famed galloper Wind Blown, which went on to score a follow-up victory in the prestigious Gran Copa de Manila on his way to bagging last year's Horse of The Year plum.

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Belle Cup tourney in Tagaytay courses

THE BELLE Cup Golf Tournament goes under way on May 10 at Tagaytay Highlands Cup and on May 11 at Tagaytay Midlands for the Midlands Cup. The combined scores for the two cups will be for the Belle Cup.

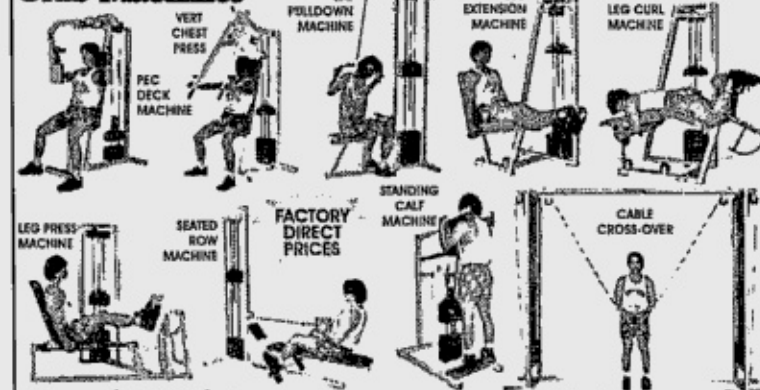
Teams have the option to choose whether to play only in the Highlands Cup, the Midlands Cup, or on both days for the Belle Cup. Awards will be given to the champions, first runners-up, and second runners-up in each division.

Hole-in-one sponsor Cathay Pacific Airways will award a roundtrip business class ticket to

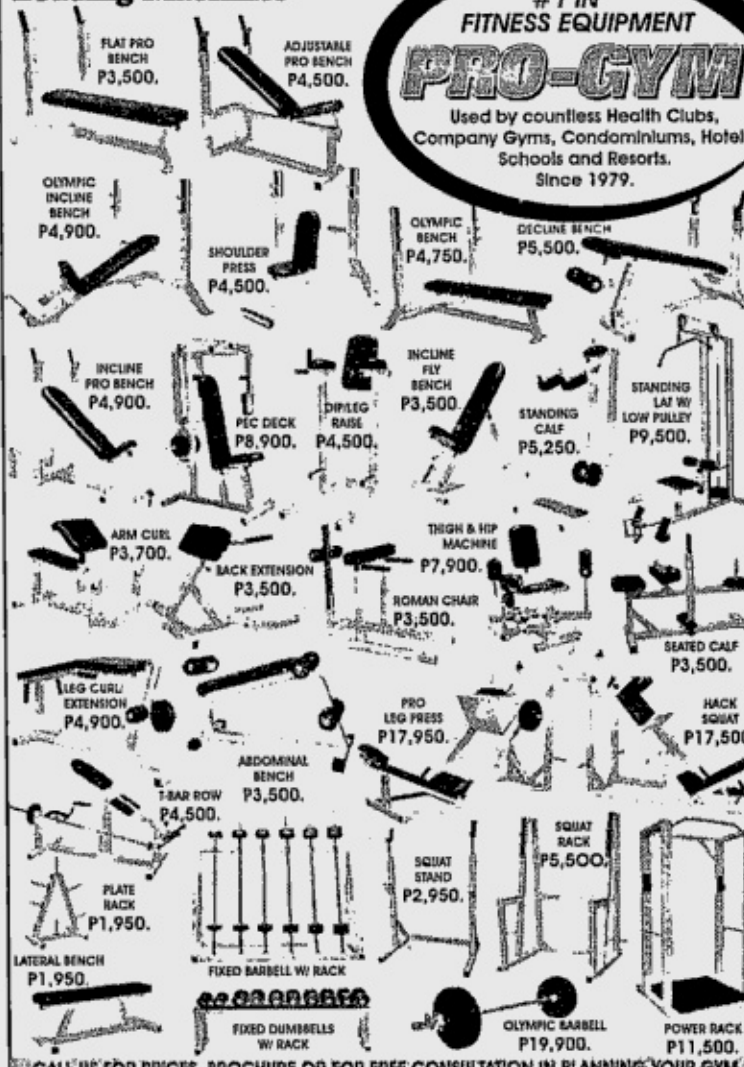
any Cathay Pacific destination for registered Belle Cup participants who will make the first hole-in-one on any par-3 hole on either of the two days. A round-trip ticket to Hong Kong will be raffled off to Belle Cup participants if there is no hole-in-one winner.

Now in its third year, the Belle Cup Golf Tournament of 2002 will be composed of two-man teams playing the scramble format. Members, spouses, dependents and guest of members of both Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club Inc. are entitled to join the tournament.

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(In exact order)

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Mandaluyong sluggers prevail

TALavera, Nueva Ecija—Edil Avenido worked 13 Innings in guiding Rizal Technical University of Mandaluyong City to a twin kill in the opening of the First All-Philippine Softball Championships at the Talavera National High School ball park here. RTU blanked Shell Velocity, 11-0, and then followed it up with a 5-1 triumph over Manila.

PBA SEMIS

Aces, Tigers force KO games

GAMES TOMORROW (PhilSports)
6 p.m.—Coke vs Purefoods
8 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

JOHN Arigo and Don Allado took charge in the third quarter as Alaska subdued San Miguel Beer, 74-63, and forced a decider in the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Arigo and Allado, carrying the offensive workload for imports Ron Riley and James Head, combined for 14 points in a huge third-quarter breakaway by Alaska.

While Head rode the bench due to foul trouble and Riley was smothered by the SMB defense, Allado and Arigo put the Aces to a 54-44 lead barely a minute left before the final period.

Caught flatfooted, the Beermen were unable to recover as the Aces poured it on in the last 10 minutes.

Arigo opened the fourth with a triple and Allado knocked in a jumper before Head and Riley put the finishing touches, drilling in the final 12 markers as the Aces arranged a do-or-die tiff tomorrow.

Coca-Cola also arranged a knockout match after trouncing Purefoods, 64-59, in the other game.

Estong Ballesteros scored all of his 11 points, including three triples, in the final period as the Tigers knotted their series against the Hordogs at two games apiece.

Riley paced the Aces with 20 points but it was the surprising efforts of Allado and Arigo which created the big difference.

Arigo, who converted three of his four attempts from the three-point region,

had 8 of his 16 points in the third quarter, while Allado finished with 18 points along with Head.

Missing from the Beermen's arsenal was Boybits Victoria, who went 0-of-6 from trifecta territory and came up with only a point in the match.

Scores:

ALASKA 74—Riley 20, Head 18, Allado 18, Arigo 16, Lastimoso 2, Santos 0.

SAN MIGUEL 63—Bennett 21, Peña 10, Strothers 9, Mente 7, Duat 6, Lago 5, Belasco 4, Victoria 1.

Quarters: 19-9, 35-35, 57-47, 74-63.



MARIO Bennett (right) of San Miguel Beer tries to drive against Alaska's Don Allado and Ron Riley (left). The Aces won, 74-63.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Bare Eye — Roco:
Time, funds were
of the essence /A26

Mapua campus in Bel-Air 'very legal'

By Christian V. Esguerra

"VERY legal."

That was how the barangay captain of Bel-Air in Makati City described the disputed establishment of a Mapua Institute of Technology campus in the area.

Barangay captain Constanza Lichauco said residents of Bel-Air II should no longer complain about the campus since Mapua officials had long addressed their concerns, particularly that of traffic congestion which might affect the commercial and residential area.

The establishment of a campus on the former Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. building, located between Metropolitan and Gil Puyat avenues, was authorized by a

Makati zoning ordinance, according to Lichauco.

Because of the ordinance, Bel-Air could have easily issued a barangay clearance for the Mapua campus, but school officials "even went out of their way to please" residents, she said.

Lichauco said Mapua scheduled a series of consultation meetings with affected residents to provide them with opportunities to air their concerns.

At a meeting in August last year, residents raised their fears that the Mapua campus might further clog traffic at the Gil Puyat-Metropolitan area.

Mapua then commissioned the National Center for Transportation Studies to assess

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City Council yesterday passed an ordinance cutting by half its share of the 30 percent amusement tax on the gross receipts of local movies shown in the capital.

No councilor ob-

jected when the ordinance was read on third and final reading.

The ordinance's authors, Councilors Pacifico Laxa of the second district and Miles Rocas of the third, said the newly approved law aims to encourage Filipino

movie makers to produce more and better quality films.

Under the ordinance, 30 percent will still be

deducted from the ticket sales but only half of the deducted amount will go to the city government's coffers.

The other half will be shared by the film producer (80 percent) and the theater owner.

MANILA CUTS /A26

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Family Reader

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UNDER FIRE

The heat of summer brings out the creative best among people, like this man who finds an unlikely bed in the fork of a fire tree at the Elliptical Circle in Quezon City. There's smog and traffic noise but there's also breeze and open air.

JOAN BONDOC

Mandaluyong is a 'tiger,' say DTI, AIM

By Nelson F. Flores

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. has something to roar about.

The Asian Institute of Management and the Department of Trade and Industry recently declared Mandaluyong as the newest "tiger city" in the country following the recent completion of the Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking for 2002.

"Mandaluyong, the heart of the golden triangle (Manila, Makati and Quezon City), has finally

emerged as a veritable boom city, one of the leading business and industrial centers in the country," Abalos said.

He said the AIM and DTI noted that Mandaluyong has made an unprecedented leap to progress and has become a haven for industrial giants and business conglomerates.

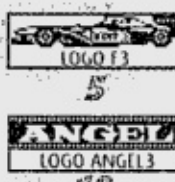
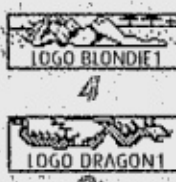
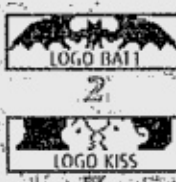
The search for the country's "tiger city" was conducted nationwide among 33 major urban centers, which were classified into metro or big, medium and small cities.

MANDALUYONG /A26

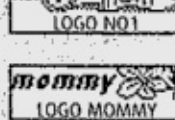
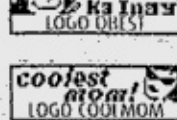


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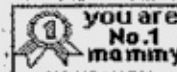
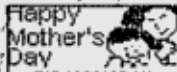
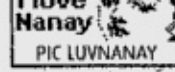
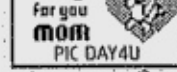
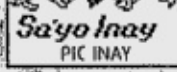
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Logos for Mother's Day:



Picture messages for Mother's Day:



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Steppenwolf
Barty Manilow
Mousse T
Smash Mouth
Zed
Robbie Williams
Beatles
Gypsy Kings
Beatles

TONE BORN2BE
TONE CANTSMILE
TONE HORNY
TONE IMABELIEVR
TONE SCREECH
TONE SHESONE
TONE STRAWBERRY
TONE VOLARE
TONE WECANWORK
TONE WITHHELP

Top ten ring tones:

1 Like A Rose
2 Superman
3 American Woman
4 What Can I Do
5 Kahit Kalan
6 So Young
7 Katawan
8 Legs
9 Pakisabi Na Lang
10 Macho Guwapito

A1
Five for Fighting
Lenny Kravitz
The Corrs
South Border
The Corrs
Hagibis
Florante
Rico Puno

TONE LIKEAROSE
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What Drives You CALTEX

Jail for 6 ex-PAL workers

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Tarra Quismundo

SIX FORMER Philippine Airlines employees were sentenced to eight years in prison for trying to steal jewelry worth over P11 million at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport three years ago.

Former port stewards Daniel Lintag, Ramon Villariz, Esmeraldo Blando, Filoteo Tulay,

Estelito Viray and Armando Serrano were also fined P8,000 each after they were found guilty on Friday of violating the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

As port stewards, they were tasked to unload food containers, catering wines and trolleys, cigarettes and other materials from airplanes.

On Jan. 29, 1999, airport authorities intercepted a Toyota

Tamaraw FX van, which belonged to the stewards, containing assorted pieces of jewelry worth P11,085,670 at the International Cargo Terminal, according to the 14-page decision by Judge Priscilla Mijares.

Court records showed that the jewelry was found inside the stewards' pockets and tucked in their waistlines.

In their defense, the stewards claimed they did not intend to

steal the jewelry, which they said they had found in a black bag.

They said they were about to return the jewels to airport officials in exchange for a reward when they were arrested.

But the court ruled that the employees had no business going to restricted areas, especially since they were either on their day-off or had finished their working hours at the time of the incident.

Residents protest UP demolition

By Agnes E. Donato and
Angeli A. Alaganc

HUNDREDS of residents in barangays surrounding the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City staged a protest rally on Monday to oppose the planned demolition of several houses in Barangay San Vicente.

The Mamamayang Naninirahan at Tiwalang Lilingapin (Manatili) led affected residents in their march to Quezon City Hall to call on Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to call off the demolition.

Manatili president Valeriana Villanueva said UP did not consult the residents regarding the demolition scheduled for this week.

"UP just presented what they wanted to happen and told us

that the demolition will take place between May 6 and 9," added Villanueva, a resident of Barangay San Vicente for 30 years.

At least 35 families from Barangay San Vicente are expected to lose their homes in the demolition.

Residents of Barangays Botocan, Krus na Ligas and UP campus also joined the rally. They expressed fear that their houses might be next, if UP's planned demolition in Barangay San Vicente pushes through.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach the UP Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs for comment.

But SPO1 Jonathan Bantugan of the UP Task Force said San Vicente residents were given from

May 6 to 9 to vacate their houses. Bantugan said the demolition is set on May 13.

Villanueva said UP had been claiming the land since the term of former President Ferdinand Marcos. But the long-standing issue on ownership of the property, she added, had been repeatedly settled.

She cited a memorandum issued in 1984 by then President Marcos directing UP officials to allocate parts of the land for housing.

Nevertheless, UP reportedly created an inter-agency committee consisting of different government agencies to deal with the demolition in the contested area.

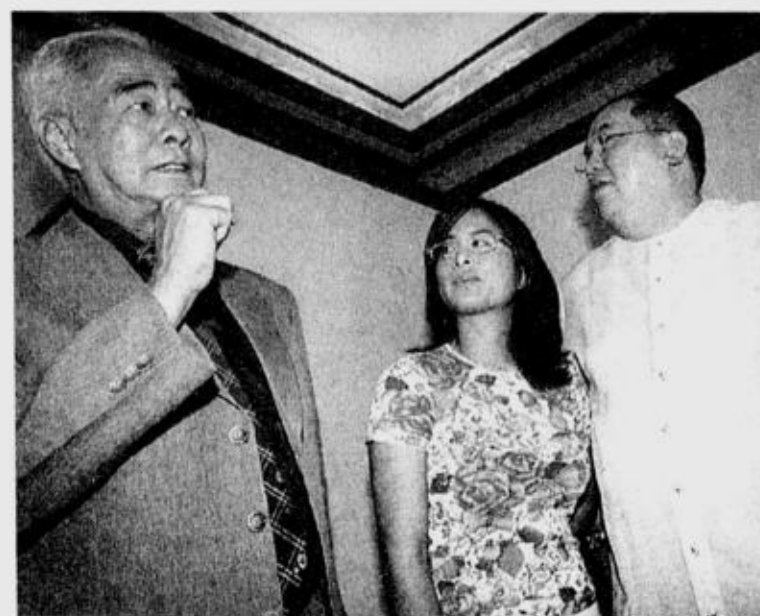
Villanueva also denied the UP committee's reported claim that it had sent 126 notices informing the residents about the demolition.

The residents, she said, received only eight notices while only 16 of the 35 affected families were offered relocation.

Residents of San Vicente, which was formerly known as the Enlisted Men's Barrio of the Signal Service Battalion of the Philippine Army, have occupied the area since the early 1960s.

The community, located on University Avenue, now has concrete roads and power, cable and water facilities, and multipurpose halls.

Councilor Ariel Inton (4th District) recently filed a resolution at the Quezon City Council authorizing Belmonte to negotiate with the UP administration to acquire the parcel of land and sell it to the occupants under a community mortgage plan.



VICE Mayor Danny Lacuna (left) confers with actress Joyce Jimenez and Viva Films producer Vic del Rosario before the city council hearing on the amusement tax. ERIK ARAZAS

Manila cuts amusement tax

From page A25

The ordinance specifically amended Section 12, Article IV of the Ordinance No. 7988 series of 1993, also known as the Amended Revenue Code of the City of Manila.

Roces said the ordinance "is part of Mayor Lito Atienza's commitment to support the local movie industry and encourage it to play a major role in promoting positive values among the people, especially the youth."

Councilor Kim Atienza, the acting presiding officer of the council, pointed out that the move would be

a big boost to the local film industry that has been experiencing a slump in the past few years.

Laxa said the incentive would encourage producers to make films that are competitive with foreign ones being shown in local theaters.

"And more films mean more jobs made available to the Filipinos," he added.

The approval of the ordinance is also viewed by members of the local film industry as very timely, as it was done barely a month before the start of this year's Manila Film Festival.

5 suspected kidnappers fall after ransom payment

POLICE arrested five suspected kidnappers hours after they freed two hostages in exchange for ransom money.

The suspects were caught in separate raids on Saturday in

Quezon City and Manila, hours after they freed two men they had kidnapped days earlier, national police spokesman Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said.

Relatives of victims Orlando

Santos and his brother-in-law Mark Santos allegedly handed over to the Philippines National Police to stamp out heinous crimes," Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay said. AFP

"The neutralization of this group is part of the continuing effort of the Philippines National Police to stamp out heinous crimes," Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay said. AFP

Roco: Time, funds were of the essence

OBVIOUSLY, the organization man doesn't buy that shallow saying which insists, "It's better late than never."

You can't use the faxed copy of a check to draw money, Education Secretary Raul Roco explained with characteristic firmness yesterday.

With that, Roco, after having seen the Palarong Pambansa postponed twice, yesterday swore he would stand pat on his decision to move the games, set in Naga June 3-10, to January 2003.

"My answer is a firm No," he announced. "There will be no Palaro this year."

For the record, the Philippine Sports Commission had agreed to deliver on Friday the P36-million checks needed for the holding of the sports meet for high school students.

After the PSC failed to beat the deadline, Roco on Monday announced the cancellation of the Palaro to next year.

In a letter to Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain, Roco said: "The Management Committee of the Department of Education, composed of Regional Directors, representatives and principals, voted to postpone the Palarong Pambansa... There is no more time nor money for training



and good preparation."

Late as they were, Roco said copies of the checks from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the PSC were faxed to him on Monday.

It could not be determined which reached their destinations first: Roco's strongly worded letter to Buhain or the copy of the checks to the education department.

The meet was originally scheduled for last February. It was postponed.

Roco said that on April 27, the PSC again appealed and suggested that the games be reset to the first week of June because the funding from Pagcor would only be released last week.

The week ended with no word whatsoever from the PSC.

The education department, bared Roco, was left with empty representations,

"still no money and even lesser time."

Blurted Roco: "The haphazard logistical support flowing from the cavalier attitude of the PSC is unacceptable to the department."

If it were a picnic, Roco explained, he could have just picked up the checks and proceeded.

But money, he maintained, was not the main essence here.

The Palaro was expected to showcase the skills and talents of school athletes who were supposed to have trained long and consistently.

But, Roco asked, how could the competitors perform in peak form if they had not prepared sufficiently?

"Training of athletes requires consistency," Roco said, "which we have not seen in recent actualities of the PSC."

Here, he cited the sad events that prevailed in the last Batang Pinoy games.

He said his arm had been literally twisted for the Batang Pinoy to be staged despite insufficient preparations.

"So what did they achieve instead?" he asked. "Our office continued to receive complaints of sexual harassment that allegedly took place during that meet."

Roco also hit at the PSC for in-

cluding basketball in the calendar of events, contrary to an agreement.

He said the agreement was for the Palaro to concentrate on events where the Philippines can excel in international competitions.

Another thing, Roco stressed, June is the month for enrollment and preparation for the school opening.

"The DepEd cannot sacrifice the education of the students on account of the PSC delays," he said.

Buhain had written Roco to reconsider his decision to postpone the Palaro.

Buhain explained that a cancellation means there would be no Palaro for two consecutive years.

"That would be unhealthy for the country's grassroots sports development program," he explained.

Concerned critics next called the Roco move a knee-jerk reaction.

He was also branded a killjoy.

He stood still.

Calling himself an organization man, Roco refused to be swayed.

12 questioned on shabu loss

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said it would release by Friday its report on the nine kilograms of shabu reported missing from the agency's evidence vaults.

NBI deputy director for intelligence Samuel Ong told reporters said an NBI team has so far interviewed 12 people, including the agent handling the case of the missing drugs, and inspected the evidence vaults on Monday.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Monday assigned Ong to head a team to investigate the incident.

The team inspected the NBI forensic chemistry division, where the shabu was kept. The drug cache was part of 246.76 kilos of shabu reportedly seized from Sandra Lim in Pasay City on Dec. 26, 2000.

The team also questioned Arlis

Vela, the agent handling the case.

Wycoco on Monday hinted that the disappearance of the shabu could have been an inside job. He said anyone found liable for the loss would be dealt with "severely."

The loss was discovered last month during an inventory by a team from the Dangerous Drugs Board and the sheriff's office of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Aside from Ong, the NBI team investigating the disappearance includes internal affairs division chief Lauro Reyes, Office of the Director staff member Eric Quintos, intelligence services head Rustico Vigilina and legal division head Joseph Menzon.

Wycoco said the committee would determine whether there was "a loss or a pilferage" of 8.67 kilos of shabu, part of the contraband seized in Pasay.



CARS FROM PAGCOR

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. (right) receives from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Chair Efraim Genuino the symbolic keys to two new patrol cars which the MMDA will use on C-5 Road.

City jail inmate dead of TB

ANOTHER inmate died of tuberculosis at the Manila City Jail Monday night.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the city police homicide section, identified the man as Eduardo Abud, 29, a bank robbery suspect and a native of Base, Samar.

Records showed that Abud was jailed in 1998 and had a pending robbery case at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 44. He was about to go to bed when he started coughing and wheezing at about 9 p.m., police said.

Abud even vomited blood before he lost consciousness, police said. His cellmates called the jail guards who took him to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center. He died while undergoing treatment, police said.

About 3,500 male and female inmates are detained at the dilapidated prison, which was built in the Commonwealth era for only 1,000 inmates. Jerome Aning

Stabbed in Malate

POLICE are hunting down a man who attacked a group of drinkers and killed one of them in Malate, Manila Monday night.

SPO2 Athos de Quiros said a Tondo resident only known as "Chay" stabbed Rodrigo Baraco, 49, dead.

De Quiros said Baraco, of Tondo, and his friends were drinking near a welding shop in front of the Paraiso ng Batang Manila in Malate when the stranger passed by at about 7:30 p.m.

Police said Baraco provoked the man by calling him names. The man pulled out a fan knife, stabbed Baraco once in the stomach and fled. De Quiros said. Jerome Aning

Mandaluyong...

From page A25

The urban centers were rated according to the cost of doing business needs, linkages and accessibility, quality of human resources and quality of life.

The primary objective of the search is to rank the economic competitiveness of the different urban centers and measure how effective these cities are in providing an environment conducive to business and industry.

Abalos said the result of the project would motivate local government leaders to shift their role from being mere service providers to being economic managers.

He thanked all Mandaluyong city government employees, business leaders and residents for working as one team.

Mandaluyong was transformed into an economic giant from a backwater town in just 15 years: Its income soared from P41 million in 1986 to P1.2 billion in 2001.

Mapua campus...

From page A25

the traffic situation in the area with the operation of the Mapua School of Information Technology there.

Lichauco described the move as "extraordinary" since the school supposedly spent around P10 million to organize the traffic.

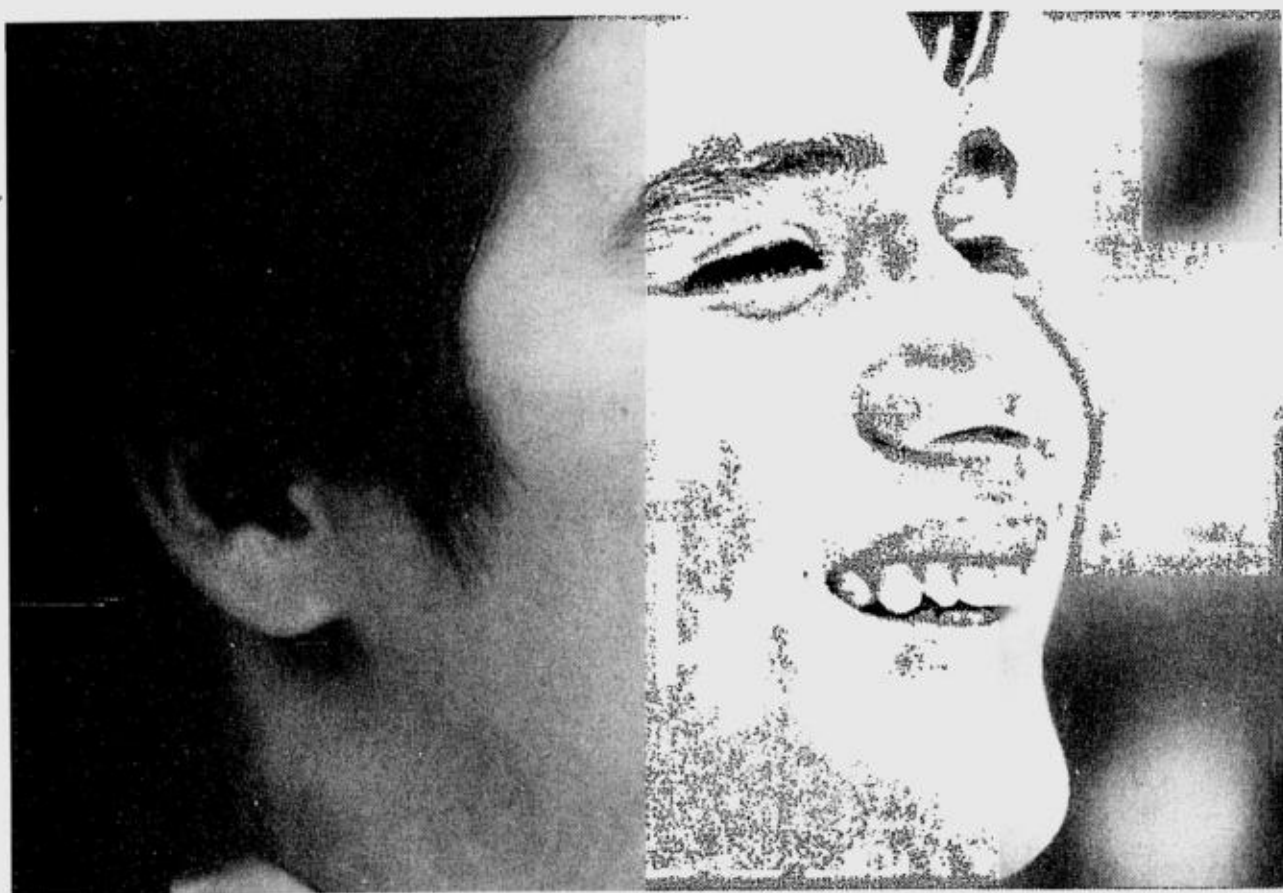
"Won't we appreciate them (school officials) for the things that they're doing?" she said.

The study proposed the construction of a two-lane road above a creek that will bridge Gil Puyat with Metropolitan and the deployment of traffic enforcers in the area.

The new Mapua campus began operating last April 22.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



PASCUAL. Acting is second skin.

After Goma and Aga, the next big star is Piolo

PIOLO Pascual's rise predictably has been accompanied by intrigues, from his days in ramp modeling to his latest foray as one of the members of The Hunks.

But one thing is certain: Piolo has added much-needed excitement to show biz, he being one of its bankable stars.

People who know him believe that his steady rise is largely due to hard work and perseverance, the same formula that propelled the likes of **Richard Gomez** and **Aga Muhlach** to the top.

"But Richard and Aga are married and have become dads," notes director **Maryo J. de los Reyes**, who works with Piolo in Regal Films' new offering, "I Think I'm in Love."

"So although Richard and Aga are still counted as major box office players, their fans have changed in the way they look at them. Only now do we have another young actor who is getting a big following and that's Piolo."

Regal Films producer **Lily Monteverde** agrees. "Stars like Piolo are what make show biz more exciting," she says.

"I believe Piolo is well loved by the public because of his *simpatiko* appeal," adds *direk* Maryo. "You watch him on TV and instantly, you feel for him. You watch him in movies and his talent wins you over, whatever role he plays. All actors who became big stars were like that. They have that distinct charm."

"Off-camera, Piolo has no airs. He is very accommodating. He treats his fans like they're his friends."

Piolo got his big break through a lead role in **Mel Chionglo's** "Lagarista," opposite the sexy **Janna Victoria**. He has since been paired with a number of actresses, including **Maricel Soriano** in "Mila" and **Judy Ann Santos** in "Bakit 'Di Totohanin."

On TV, he has done both lead and anti-hero roles with ease. He earlier played a *contravida* in the ABS-CBN mini-series, "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako." Now he's a romantic lead in "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," with Judy Ann Santos.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS



Leah Salterio

His present success is actually the result of his second shot at stardom. He did TV commercials when he was still a teenager and even hosted a children's TV show. He was eventually introduced in Star Circle's Batch 3, with **Bojo Molina**, **Carlos Agassi**, **Kaye Abad** and **Paolo Contis**.

Unlike his batchmates, Piolo didn't enjoy instant popularity since he left the country after only six months to join his family in the United States.

Piolo recalls he had no plans of returning to Manila because his mom didn't want him to. "But after a year, she allowed me," he shares.

In August 1999, he came back and he gave show biz another try. He joined theater groups in school. At the University of Santo Tomas where he studied two years of college, he auditioned for Teatro Tomasino.



PAREÑO. Happy with the new challenge in her acting career.

"I love acting," he asserts. "For me, it's like second skin."

In "I Think I'm in Love," he plays a rich, happy-go-lucky bachelor. He stakes his Porsche in a bet with his elder brother (**Lorenzo Mara**), who challenges him to have a genuine friendship with any girl for a three-month period. Then Piolo meets a sexy working woman (**Joyce Jimenez**) who changes his world. He finds himself falling genuinely in love with her.

"I Think I'm in Love," which was originally titled "Sweethearts," is Regal Films' entry in the Manila Film Festival next month. Also in the cast of the movie are veteran stars **Gloria Romero** and **Luis Gonzales**, with **Roselle Nava**, **Nancy Castiglione**, **Michelle Bayle** and **Cholo Escaño**.

Gina returns to drama

AS if GMA 7's primetime soaps with powerhouse casting are not enough, the network recently launched a star-studded Sunday afternoon soap, "Kahit Kailan."

Replacing "Anna Karenina" in the Sunday afternoon time slot (2:30 to 4 p.m.) after "SOP," "Kahit Kailan" is directed by **Ruel Bayani**.

The mini-series marks the return of veteran actress **Gina Pareño** to TV drama, after doing comedy for many years. Her last TV assignment was in the ABS-CBN sitcom, "Da Pilya en da Pilot," which stars **Aga Muhlach** and **Joyce Jimenez**.

Gina had just arrived from a two-month vacation in the US when she was asked to join the cast of "Kahit Kailan."

"I don't want to stop acting," Gina says. "They made me do comedy on TV before, but there's nothing like dramatic acting."

In "Kahit Kailan," she plays a rich matriarch who becomes a widow and takes care of her two sons, **Ricardo Cepeda** and **Allan Paule**, and two grandsons, **James Blanco** and **Biboy Ramirez**.

Gina notes that even the young stars in the cast have been very professional during taping.

"Our roles here are very well distributed," she says. "I'm very happy with this new challenge in my career."

Good news from bad

CAN some good come out of bad news in show biz? Definitely. Take a look at these instances:

• Everyone bewails the rampant piracy of music albums, with fake cassettes being priced so low that legit recording companies have suffered a big decline in their income. On the other hand, the grim business situation has prompted some recording firms to lower their prices, making legit tapes much more affordable. So, the situation has to be rationalized to some extent, despite the fact that some negative aspects continue to obtain.

• Local *telenovelas* are occasionally faulted for being too sappy melodramatic to be truly affecting. But there's no denying the fact that the TV soaps have revived the performing careers of a number of gifted veteran actors and actresses; who play key if supporting roles in those *telenovelas*. Without those shows, we would not see many of these outstanding performers on the screen again, and they in turn energize their TV soaps in a major way.

• Contrastingly, many talented TV-movie actors are out of work these days, but this has given them the time to appear in stage plays,



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

thus boosting the popularity of theatrical productions. Once again, some good has resulted from a bad situation.

• Action movies are generally faring badly at the tills, forcing macho superstars to reevaluate their way of doing things. A prime beneficiary of this soul-searching is **Robin Padilla**, who has discovered that moviegoers like him as a comedian. It's quite a big change of pace—and leap of faith—for the former Bad Boy of local movies, but it's revived his flagging movie career. Would that other action stars could be as adaptable!

Sexy flicks are also flopping all over the place, prompting some nymphets to keep their clothes on and bank on their acting talent, for a change. This may be improvement on the rebound, but it's an improvement, nevertheless. Even better, the slump in sex flicks may be discouraging droves of new nymphets from daring and baring it. To their friends and relatives' great relief!

Keanu plays 'Hardball'

AFTER portraying invincible heroes in GOOD/A31

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 GLORIETTA 4 cinema 3 (THX/Guaranteed Seat) - 12:30pm, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 LMF
 GLORIETTA 4 cinema 5 - 1:10pm, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40 LMF
 GLORIETTA 4 cinema 6 - 1:00pm, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 LMF

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD) cinema 2 - 12:15pm, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 LMF
 GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD) cinema 3 - 11:45 am, 2:15pm, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 LMF
 GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD) cinema 4 - 11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 LMF

GREENBELT 1 cinema 1 - 11:05am, 1:35pm, 4:05, 6:35, 9:05 LMF
 GREENBELT 1 cinema 2 - 11:35am, 1:05pm, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35 LMF
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B. Kung mapapamahal sa kanya si Dingdong D. Kung nalimutan niyang "i-off" ang plantsa

Ang kilig na sagot nasa...

Akoala Mo...

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V.I.V.A.

Manila councilor robbed

By Jerome Aning

UNIDENTIFIED men yesterday morning burglarized the office of a Manila councilor and son-in-law of Mayor Lito Atienza.

A cellular phone, an electric fan motor, an adaptor and presumably some important papers were missing from the office of Councilor Miles Rocas of the city's third district, according to police.

Members of Rocas' staff had

not completed inventory of the items stolen as of yesterday afternoon.

The councilor holds office in Room 223 on the second floor of City Hall.

Rocas is the council's first assistant majority floor leader and the chair of the body's committee on education, arts and culture.

One of the members of the councilor's staff, Emily Hernandez, said she came to the

office about 8 a.m. and was surprised when she noticed the door was already open.

She said she entered the room and saw that the drawer and cabinets had been ransacked and documents were strewn all over the floor.

Rocas was informed of the robbery when he attended the city council's session at 9 a.m.

Investigators led by PO2 Ronnie Lopez were trying to de-

termine whether it was an inside job. They said the room was probably opened with a duplicate key as there was no sign of forced entry.

One of the investigators said the thief or thieves could have been looking for a document, considering that the suspect or suspects apparently took pains to sift through the files in drawers and cabinets.

Policemen were set to question Rocas' four employees.

General's wife loses watch, Slimmers membership

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE WIFE of an Army general yesterday threatened to file a damage suit against Slimmers World International for terminating her membership after she reported the loss of her P500,000 wristwatch in the Makati City branch of the fitness center.

Liza Cacanando, wife of Lt. Gen. Manuel Cacanando of the

Philippine Army, said she was "gravely insulted" when she lost her 18-year membership at Slimmers World "without the benefit of due process."

Cacanando said she was kicked out of the fitness center on March 26, more than a month after she claimed she lost her Cartier watch while working out at the Slimmers World branch on Pasay Road in Makati.

"I waited for them (Slimmers World officials) to do something about (the incident)," she said. "But instead of looking into the matter, they terminated my membership."

But Slimmers World claimed that Cacanando lost her membership after she used foul language toward its employees.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Slimmers World official Helen

Camacho questioned the probability of Cacanando losing her wristwatch in the fitness center last Feb. 4.

"Cacanando usually deposited her valuables at the front desk/reception, but on the day she claimed she was a victim of theft...she did not declare or deposit them at our front desk/reception," Camacho said in her letter.

Water cutoff Engineers from Shanghai to help Manila in rehabilitating Pasig

BARANGAYS Bungad, Paltoc and Project 7 in Quezon City will experience nine hours of low water pressure or no water at all from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow, May 9.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the water service interruption will pave the way for the dry run of the simultaneous closure of cross-border flows at Edsa and Bulacan Street corner West Avenue.

The affected consumers may call the Maynilad hot line, 1626, for the water rationing schedule.

EXPERTS from the Shanghai Municipal Engineering Design Institute are in Manila to explore areas of cooperation in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

Engineers Yang Shou Sheng and Ge Yao Yu met officials of various cities and towns in Metro Manila led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco. They also gave local officials a glimpse of major river rehabilitation projects undertaken by the

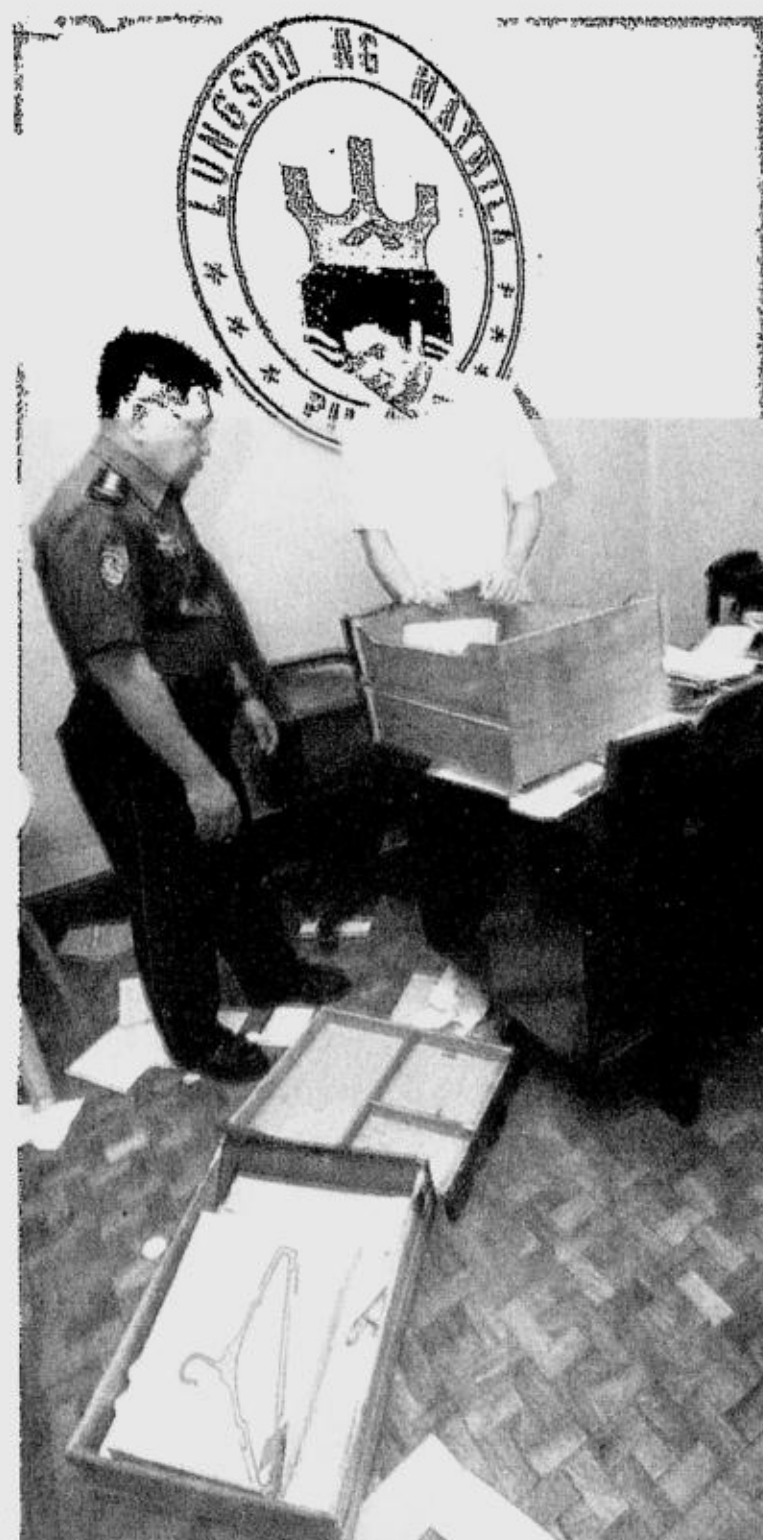
Shanghai Institute in China and other parts of the globe.

Sponsored by the Lucio C. Tan Group of Companies, the engineers from the Shanghai Municipal Engineering Design Institute are known experts in their field. The 48-year-old institution drafts master plans and undertakes numerous projects to revive dead rivers and other polluted bodies of water. It has won awards for its design and construction of water and sewage treatment plants, bridges, flood control

projects, environment engineering and solid waste management projects.

"As responsible Filipinos, we must do our share in reviving Pasig River's old glory," Tan said. "We must do this in order to secure a better future for us and our children."

Atienza expressed gratitude to the Lucio Tan Group's concern for reviving a vital arterial waterway and for bringing the Shanghai engineers to Manila.



ROBBERY victim Councilor Miles Rocas and Senior Supt. Ernesto Ibay find out what's missing.

ERIK ARAZAS

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Good news from bad

From page A27

"Speed" and "The Matrix," Keanu Reeves goes empathetically realistic for a welcome change in "Hardball."

In the film, Reeves plays Connor O'Neill, a gambler in over his head in debt. He is forced to work for his financial freedom by coaching a company-sponsored youth baseball team. What looks like his worst punishment slowly becomes a learning experience that helps him discover his own inner strength.

"Hardball" is inspired by the true-to-life experiences of Daniel Coyle, who coached a youth baseball team in the slums of Chicago. His book, on which the movie is based, tells a story of triumph over adversity, about a coach and 10 underprivileged kids who never had a chance—until they took a chance on each other.

Product launch TV movie merchandising is a big-bucks business in the States, but it's only getting started here. ABS-CBN is one of the early leaders in this regard, and its latest product spin-offs, which were launched recently, are based on the macho appeal of The Hunks (Diether

Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi and Bernard Palanca).

The complete range of Hunks products available include clothes, eyewear, accessories and pillows, all licensed by ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc., the network's licensing and merchandising

subsidiary.

Hunks accessories include silver rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and pendants. And Hunks perfumes come in five refreshing scents—Adventurous, Vibrant, Sporty, Fresh and Cool.

The popular Side A band will be presented in a concert on Thursday, May 9

at the New Calape Cultural Center, Calape, Bohol, by the Municipality of Calape headed by Mayor **Ernesto Herrera III**, in co-operation with the Calape sons of America.

Jim Caviezel in "High Crimes"

LOCAL movie fans got an eyeful of new film star **Jim Caviezel** in "The Red Line," "Pay It Forward" and,

more recently, in "The Count of Monte Cristo." Verdict: some new lead players come and go, but this one is bound to stay.

For proof positive, Caviezel costars with **Ashley Judd** and **Morgan Freeman** in "High Crimes." He plays Judd's mysterious lover in the new mystery thriller.

In the film, Judd is a high powered military defense attorney who's facing the

toughest case of her career. She enlists the help of a former military lawyer (Freeman) to help her defend her husband (Caviezel), who has been charged with deserting his squad and committing war atrocities in El Salvador.

As the case progresses, Judd learns more about her husband's hidden

past, and comes across evidence that may implicate him in a mass murder.

Caviezel loved playing the tormented husband because it was so different from the heroic roles he's essayed in the past. Acting in "High Crimes" was a "stretch" for him, and he enjoyed the thespic workout.

The young actor

has also been in "Angel Eyes" with **Jennifer Lopez**, and in "Frequency," where he played a cop who discovered that he could communicate with his late father.

Movies on HBO: MONDAY, May 20 at 7:45 a.m., "The Natural." 10 a.m., "For Love of the Game." 12:30 p.m., "The Hunt for Red October." 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow."

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	JASON X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HARDBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	K-PAX
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	IT LOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	VIDEOKE KING
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-2079 / 633-78-51 TO 78
CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(581-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	HARDBALL
CINEMA-6	BENEATH LOCHNESS
CINEMA-7	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-12	K-PAX
CINEMA-14	JASON X
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	HARDBALL
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	JASON X
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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K-PAX - P13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SPIDERMAN - GP 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20	HARDBALL - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	JASON X - P13 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	SPIDERMAN - GP 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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SM Fairview (LG/F in front of SM AC)

SM Megamall (5/F-TS1, 2/F Bridgeway and 2/F Bldg. A Activity Center)
SM North EDSA (LG/F Entrance 5 bet. Watson's and Goldilocks, LG/F City Center Westend, SM AC side)
SM Manila (LG/F Centermall beside East stairway)
SM Sucat (G/F bet. Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo)

SM Southmall (LG/F bet. Kickers & La Pogany)
SM Centerpoint (LG/F Centermall, DelFrance side)
Robinsons Galleria (Level 1, EDSA Node)
Robinsons Place Manila (Level 1, bet. Red Ribbon and DelFrance)

LUZON:
Robinsons Place, Imus (1/F, Activity Area)
SM Pampanga (G/F in front of Kenny Rogers)
SM Bacoor (LG/F Centermall bet. Pizza Hut and French Baker)

VISAYAS:
SM Cebu (LG/F near Supermarket)
SM Iloilo (LG/F West Wing bet. National Bookstore and Watson's)
MINDANAO:
SM Davao (G/F, Astrium in front of Pizza Hut)

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



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North Luzon attracts P20B in investment commitments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEVERAL major business groups, led by the Gokongwei and Lopez families, have agreed to back up the Macapagal administration's strategy to boost investments, tourism, trade and social progress in northern Philippines.

Renato V. Diaz, presidential assistant for regional development in North Luzon, said the government has obtained investment commitments of as much as P20 billion from a number of businessmen who shared the government's optimism on the growth potential of North Philippines.

Diaz said the biggest supporter of North Luzon was the JG Summit group of taipan John Gokongwei, which is spending at least P15 billion in Central Luzon to build factories, shopping malls and telecommunication facilities.

In an interview, JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei said his group believed in the growth potential of North Luzon, specifically Central Luzon, because it has a bigger population with higher income compared to the Visayas and Mindanao regions. The elder Gokongwei started the family business in Cebu.

JG Summit's Digital Telecommunication is expected to spend at least P13.5 billion this year for its landline and mobile phone services mainly in its North Luzon franchise area. Following the inauguration of its P800-million Star Mills mall in Pampanga last week, Gokongwei said JG Summit was looking to build another mall in Dagupan City. JG Summit has also built a factory for its cookies in Pampanga.

Aside from the JG Summit group, Diaz said the Lopez group has also committed to spend P300 million for various infrastructure projects in the North Philippines area. The

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BPI denies sale of DBS stake

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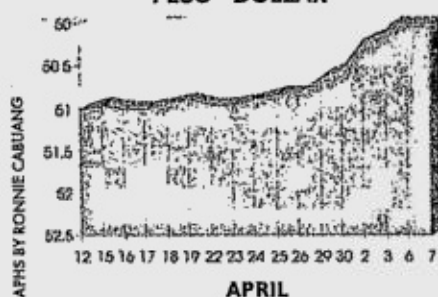
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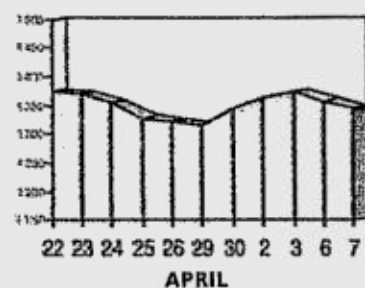
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GOLD: \$313.25/ 313.75

per ounce Hong Kong,
May 7, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



APRIL

(See stock market report on Page B7)

Shares down 1%

SHARES closed lower yesterday, as sharp losses on Wall Street overnight pushed investors to continue taking profits on domestic equities, analysts said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 13.82 points, or one percent, to 1343.83 after Monday's loss of 17.94 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1357.65 following three straight days of gains.

Losers swamped gainers 44 to 14, with 40 issues unchanged.

Leading losers were SM Prime Holdings Inc. and Metrobank, which were the major gainers in the market's recent rally.

The Dow Jones Industrial average lost 2 percent to 9808.04 points Monday, while the Nasdaq also fell 2 percent, to 1578.48 points, on renewed concerns over corporate earnings and US economic prospects. AP

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BP, Sumitomo set to sell stake in Bataan naphtha cracker plant

By Clarissa S. Batino

BRITISH Petroleum Corp. and Sumitomo Corp. are set to sell their investments in

Bataan Polyethylene Corp. to joint venture partner Malaysian giant Petrolim Nasional Berhad.

Petronas' increased investment in the Bataan petrochemical plant was listed as one of the items that Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. would discuss in the ongoing state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Malaysia.

Sources said BP and Sumitomo were no longer interested because of the glut in the region of petrochemical products.

Petronas, however, said it was willing to increase its stake on condition that the government gives incentives such as tax breaks. The finance department, however, turned down the proposal.

Petronas has an existing 25-percent stake in the consortium that would put up the plant. British Petroleum, on the other hand, has 30 percent while Sumitomo has 5 percent. Other partners include Profinda Corp. (30 percent) and Wellex Corp. (10 percent).

The polyethylene plant is designed to break down naphtha, a by-product of crude oil, to produce polymers such as polyethylene and polypropylene.

These polymers are then used as raw materials to produce plastics for making basic products such as chairs and tables, telephones, computers, rope and twine.

BPI denies sale of DBS stake

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands strongly denied yesterday an INQUIRER report that the Development Bank of Singapore planned to dispose of its 20-percent interest in the bank.

A spokesperson for DBS said that its investment in the Ayala-controlled bank was "strategic and long-term." BPI president Xavier Loinaz said the report was "absolutely not true," adding that BPI was even working closely with DBS on various projects.

The INQUIRER reported the other day that DBS wanted out of its partnership with the Ayalas and was looking for buyers of its 20-percent stake in BPI. The INQUIRER's source for the report

was a person who said he was asked by a senior DBS official late last year to refer possible buyers of the Singapore bank's stake in BPI.

DBS allegedly wanted to sell its stake in BPI because it was unhappy over its lack of active participation in the management of BPI and the disappointing performance of the local bank vis-a-vis rosy financial projections in 1999 following the merger with Far East Bank and Trust Co.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BPI said, "We wish to inform you that there is no truth to this article and we continue to work closely and maintain an excellent relationship with the Development Bank of Singapore."

A BPI spokesperson stressed that DBS officials were involved in the board meetings of the bank through videoconferencing.

BPI officials were also in Singapore Friday to discuss possible projects the two banks could work on together.

DBS pumped in over \$700 million in 1999 for an equivalent 20-percent stake in the merged BPI-FEBTC.

As of end-last year, Ayala Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, directly owned 25 percent of BPI, Ayala DBS Holdings held 21.43 percent and PCD nominees, 21.5 percent.

Loinaz earlier said the bank would likely post a profit growth of 5 percent to 10 percent this year.

Steel firms criticize DTI's Roxas for failure to help local industry

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE steel producers have criticized the Department of Trade and Industry for its alleged failure to help domestic manufacturing industries get back on their feet.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, Philippine Iron and Steel Institute president Alberto M. Albano asked the former lawmaker and investment banker: "What has the DTI and the government been doing to alleviate the problems of the industrial sector? Are there any plans to uplift this sector in the immediate future?"

Roxas has been a trade secretary since 1999, first under the discredited Estrada administration, and later under the current administration.

Albano said that while steel producers have been asking the government for some programs to help the industrial sector get back on its feet, "we cannot point to any concrete attempt on the part of the government to help industry... In the meantime, companies continue to flounder and the layoffs go on in the industrial sector."

Albano said the DTI's neglect of the industries became even more conspicu-

ous in the face of the efforts of the agriculture department to boost agriculture production and trade; the tourism department's programs to bring in more tourists; the National Housing Authority's reforms in housing and the Department of Education's push for reforms.

Albano said these reforms were being carried out by the respective agencies despite intense criticism.

Albano cited the much publicized Economic Summit held late last year wherein Roxas and other government officials pledged to initiate reforms and show positive results within six months.

RP, Petronas ink MOU to develop natural gas

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with Malaysian oil giant Petrolim Nasional Berhad (Petronas) to develop the use of local natural gas for the transportation sector.

Under the agreement, Petronas would provide six natural gas-fed taxi units to run on the country's main thoroughfares for a six-month field demonstration that the two state firms would jointly conduct.

Petronas would provide the natural gas-fed vehicles through its

Enviro 2000 program. Malaysia's largest company had already manufactured around 1,000 taxi units that use natural gas as fuel.

The agreement was part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's six-day working visit to various Asian countries, which kicked off in Malaysia yesterday.

Aside from helping minimize pollution in the country with the small-scale use of natural gas as fuel, the agreement would also pave the way for the conduct of a feasibility study on the other potential uses of natural gas.

These include the construction of natural gas-fired vehicle refueling

stations, as well as the operation, promotion, marketing and factory production of bi-fuel and mono-fuel natural gas vehicles in the Philippines.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., who signed as a witness in the agreement, said the agreement would boost the government's thrust in promoting the use of natural gas in the country.

"We are very pleased that we have found a new ally in promoting the use of natural gas. One of the government's main priorities is the increased utilization of indigenous energy sources to help stabilize energy prices," Perez said in a statement yesterday.

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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	250,000	260,000
Camp John Hay	500,000	Please Call
Caniuban	Please Call	200,000
Canyonwoods	160,000	190,000
Capitol Hills	Please Call	130,000
Celebrity Sports Club	Please Call	130,000
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Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	280,000
Forest Hills "B"	280,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	280,000	375,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	280,000	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	280,000	350,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	13,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	550,000	630,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000	750,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	120,000	120,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	50,000	30,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	350,000
Montemar (Corp)	200,000	250,000
Mt. Malarayat	240,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	240,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	240,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	240,000	350,000
Pueblo de Oro "A7/B7/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	200,000	220,000
Quezon City Sports Club	Please Call	Please Call
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Rockwell	90,000	130,000
Shanwood Hills "A"	1,700,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "A"	2,100,000	2,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	300,000	320,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	390,000	420,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	840,000	900,000
Tagaytay Country Club	740,000	850,000
Tagaytay Highlands	Please Call	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	180,000	180,000
The Country Club	240,000	240,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	Please Call	Please Call
Valley Golf	7,000,000	7,000,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	Please Call

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May 28 (Tuesday)

Developing Personal Mastery

ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center

"Personal mastery" is the phrase Peter Senge, author of "The Fifth Discipline," used for the discipline of personal growth and learning. He wrote that people with high levels of mastery are continually expanding their ability to create the results in life they truly seek. In this session, Mr. Cecilia will discuss the meaning and importance of personal mastery and the principles and practices which lay the groundwork for continually expanding personal mastery.



May 29 (Wednesday)

Increasing Your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results

JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.

Most experts now agree that those who climb the corporate ladder most quickly are those who possess a high degree of emotional intelligence or EQ. EQ is the ability to make your emotions work for you by using them in ways that produce the results you want. And the good news is, EQ can be developed and dramatically increased. Ms. Santamaria will give an overview of emotional intelligence and provide a hands-on guide that people can use to amplify their own emotional intelligence.



May 30 (Thursday)

Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence

LIRIO O. MAPA, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc.

Synergy comes from the Greek word *synergos* which means an interaction in which the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects. In the competitive world of business, mere cooperation is no longer enough to achieve a leading edge. An organization should have synergy to ensure organizational excellence. Ms. Mapa will explain synergy and its critical role in enabling organizations to become great companies. She will outline the steps on how organizations can build synergy to sustain peak performance.

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May 30 (Thursday)

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Measuring Return on Investment (ROI) on Human Capital

NORMAN RAMION, Asia Pacific Leader for Employee Research and Diagnostics, Mercer HR Consulting

Organizations are now more able to manage investments in human capital in a way that can have a measurable impact on business performance. The objective is to measure and identify causal relationships in the value chain: from specific human capital choices and practices that characterize an organization, to the various consequences (positive or negative) of those choices, to business results as measured by sales, net profit, total shareholder return, etc. This talk will focus on cutting edge developments in the area of measuring the ROI of human capital practices as demonstrated by actual case studies.

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FEES: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron). Early bird discount of 10% for paid registration before May 13. Limited discounted balcony tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

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TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

VENUE for all sessions: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1
Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

TonyBoy's dream

PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. and his partners are reopening the shuttered Giraffe bar next Wednesday.

But instead of Giraffe, or, Gay-rafte, as some limp-wrist habitués prefer to call it, the bar will be resurrected with a new name, Dreambar, new "live" music, and a revamped menu.

From cocktail time 'til 10 p.m., Dreambar will be a full-service restaurant offering continental dishes prepared by two ex-Le Souffle chefs. A three-man band playing mainstream jazz will also provide the music during those hours.

But from 10 p.m. onwards, the bar will reverberate with canned rave music, in an effort to lure back the boisterous party crowd that the old Giraffe attracted un-

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin



til the wee hours of the morning.

But with patronage having dwindled to non-profitable levels, Giraffe was closed for about a year while TonyBoy and friends searched for a new formula, new look, and new "gimik."

According to the grapevine, the Ayala landlords were quite sure that the corner space at 6750 would still be the ideal location for another restaurant-bar that they decided to waive half-year's

rent while Giraffe stayed closed.

According to those who have been invited to private pre-launch dinners, the old Giraffe's interior has been given a makeover to make Dreambar look like a "typical" hip New York joint.

It is not clear why the new bar-resto is called Dream. One Cojuangco friend, half-jokingly, said it is supposed to be the "in" place where your dreams would come true. Another volunteered that it is deliberate corporate branding to identify the bar-resto with TonyBoy's latest telecom venture, the Dream digital satellite cable company.

One thing is sure, though. If the Barretto sisters and fellow showbiz stunners make the new bar their regular hangout, it would surely be a dream destination.

(And speaking of the Barretto sisters, the Channel 2 "Pipol" interview that was written about in this space Monday was conducted in Calatagan. And it was in that interview, not in the NBC

Tent party shown in rival Channel 7, where ex-President Cory Aquino and company remained in the background, out of the camera range.)

Mati's main dish

AND speaking of attraction, Mati's, the new Greek restaurant in Rockwell that is also bankrolled by the Lopezes, is enjoying "phenomenal popularity"

even among the locals not accustomed to Hellenistic/Aegean tastes, according to the latest issue of Philippine Tatler.

Tatler has on its cover and inside spread the brains and the beauty behind Mati, the bikini-clad Geni Psinakis, romping on the beach along with other sweet-young things.

Gee, with such a delicious-

COCKTALES/B6

North...

From page B1

Lopez's First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. is majority owner of Manila North Tollways Corp., which is building the multibillion-dollar expansion and rehabilitation of the North Luzon expressway.

Diaz said the Indonesian diversified conglomerate PT Citra Lamtero Gung Persada, which built the Metro Manila Skyway and Tollway or C-6 projects, has also agreed to build a 17.5-kilometer expressway cutting across Manila that would connect the South and North Luzon expressways.



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For details on fees and reservations, please contact:
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PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Municipality of Biñan will conduct a prequalification of prospective contractors for the Construction of a 50-bed Ospital ng Biñan located at the National Highway, Canlatay, Biñan, Laguna as per scope of work, specifications, plan and detailed drawings.

Details may be obtained from the Office of the PBAC Secretariat/Office of the MPDC, Municipal Building, Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna, with Tel. No. (049) 511-3523.

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders/contractors must submit proofs showing that they comply with the following requirements:

- 1) Contractor should be a general contractor with PCAB accreditation of at least Triple A category level;
- 2) Contractor should have at least five (5) years experience as building contractor and a track record on construction of institutional projects requiring excellent workmanship on first class hospitals and other public buildings;
- 3) Contractor should submit a list of completed projects indicating project cost and nature of work undertaken;
- 4) Name of company/business address, telephone/fax number and year of incorporation/year business was established. List of other documents required is available at the Office of the PBAC Secretariat.

The above-requirements shall be submitted to the Office of the PBAC Secretariat/Office of the MPDC, Municipal Building, Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna not later than May 24, 2002.

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the PBAC will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalification bidders. The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any of the bidders to waive informality in the bids received or to accept such bids which is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) HERMIS C. PEREZ
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 1, 8 & 15, 2002)

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NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION
SUC PRESIDENT I

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2. Not over 60 years old on the date of application and in good health;
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The applicants should submit the following clearances:

1. Ombudsman
2. Civil Service Commission
3. National Bureau of Investigation

Application should be accompanied by:

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae, documentary evidence relative to the qualification
2. Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College.

Formal applications and certified supporting documents are to be submitted in six (6) copies not later than June 15, 2002 to **Mrs. Janet R. Aleman**, College/Board Secretary of Guimaras State College, Buenavista, Guimaras with telephone no. (033) 580-8244. Incomplete documents shall be returned and the applicant shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the search.

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING & TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, thru the Bids & Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Hospital Drugs & Medicines Requirements;
Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory, X-ray & Dental Supplies

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Issuance of Eligibility Documents - May 8-15, 2002
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents - May 22, 2002
3. Posting of eligible suppliers - May 24, 2002
4. Issuance of Bid Documents - May 27-31, 2002
5. Pre-bid conference - June 5, 2002; 10:00 AM sharp MMH & MC Training Center

6. Submission & opening of sealed bids for: - Drugs and Medicines - June 27, 2002; 9:30 AM sharp MMH & MC Training Center

- Medical/Surgical Supplies; Laboratory, X-ray and Dental Supplies - June 28, 2002; 9:30 AM sharp MMH & MC Training Center

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P800.00) only.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason or waive any formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the Bids & Awards Committee, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES K. OTAYZA, MD., FPOGS, MHA.
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(PDI - May 8 & 11, 2002)

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for appointment/interview

VACANT POSITIONS FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with CSC MC #27 s. 1991, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), Kalayaan Avenue, corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City, hereby publishes the following vacant positions:

1 NURSE I SG-10: Bachelor of Science in Nursing; preferably with 1 year relevant experience; Eligibility - RA 1080 (Nursing Board)

3 HHRO V SG-22: Bachelor's degree; 3 years of relevant experience; 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CS Prof.

1 HHRO III SG-16; 3 BUDGET OFFICER II SG-15; 4 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II SG-15; 4 HRMO II SG-15: Bachelor's degree; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CS Prof.

12 HHRO II SG-13; 29 HHRO I SG-11; 1 CASHIER I SG-10: Bachelor's degree; experience and training not required; Eligibility - CS Prof.

1 HHRA SG-8: Completion of 2 years studies in College; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CS Subprof.

1 ACCOUNTING CLERK II SG-6; 3 STENOGRAPHER II SG-6; 6 CLERK I SG-3; CLERK III SG-6; 1 CLERK II SG-4; 1 BUDGETING AIDE SG-4; 2 STENOGRAPHER I SG-4: Completion of 2 years studies in college; experience and training not required; Eligibility - CS Subprof.

1 ACCOUNTANT I SG-11: Bachelor's degree in Commerce major in Accounting; experience and training not required; Eligibility - CPA

2 ACCOUNTANT II SG-15: Bachelor's degree in Commerce major in Accounting; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CPA

1 DRIVER II SG-4; 1 DRIVER I SG-3: Elementary school graduate; experience and training not required; with valid Professional Driver's License

6 ATTORNEY IV SG-23: Bachelor of Laws; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - RA 1080 (Bar Exam)

1 DIRECTOR II SG-26: Bachelor's degree; 3 years of supervisory experience; training not required; Eligibility - Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service (CES)

1 REGISTRATION OFFICER II SG-14: Bachelor's degree; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CS Prof.

1 REGISTRATION OFFICER III SG-18: Bachelor's degree; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility - CS Prof.

1 BUDGET OFFICER I SG-11: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; experience and training not required; Eligibility - CS Prof.

1 HRMO I SG-11: Bachelor's degree; experience and training not required; Eligibility - CS Prof.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Quezon
Municipality of San Francisco
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: May 8, 2002
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 02-42802 CAS Q-II for the Construction of Cessy Multi-Purpose Building w/Solar Drier. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of San Francisco, Quezon II and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Construction of Multi-purpose Center 129 sq.m. with 448 sq.m. solar drier

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
I	Excavation Works	115.18 cu.m.
II	Concrete Works	56.74 cu.m.
III	Masonry works	244.84 cu.m.
IV	Form & Scaffolding	1,500.00 bd. Ft.
V	Doors & Windows	21.24 sq.m.
VI	Electrical Works	L.S.
VII	Plumbing Works	L.S.
VIII	Trusses & Roof Framing	203.10 sq.m.
IX	Solar Drier	448.00 sq.m.

Minimum Bid Security : P 33,000.00
Bid Closing Date : June 10, 2002, 2:00 PM
Project Duration : 150 CD

Minimum Equipment's Required

One (1) unit two bagger mixer-owned, two (2) units concrete cutter, two (2) units vibratory screed.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting May 14 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (P3,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on May 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Hall, San Francisco, Quezon.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, on its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the office of the Municipal Mayor, San Francisco, Quezon, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formally, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) Engr. ERNANI C. TAN
Municipal Mayor
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - May 6, 7 & 8, 2002)



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID
ITB NO. 04-14-2002

The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested authorized Manufacturers, Distributors or Dealers of motorcycles, duly accredited by PAGCOR's Suppliers Accreditation and Evaluation Division (SAED) and prequalified by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) "B", in its forthcoming public bidding for:

20 units Kawasaki Eliminator - BN175

SPECIFICATIONS	
Max. Horsepower	11.8 KW (16PS) at 8500 rpm
Max. Torque	1.4 kg.m/7500 rpm
Engine	
Type	4 stroke, SOHC, 1 cylinder
Displacement	173.9 cc
Bore x stroke	65 x 52.4 mm
Starter	Electric
Ignition system	DC, CDI
Frame	
Type	Double cradle
Suspension, front/rear	Telescopic fork/Swing arm
Dimension	
LxWxH	2155x765x1025 mm
Fuel tank capacity	14 liters
Wheelbase	1460 mm
Seat Height	680 mm
Road Clearance	165 mm

Suppliers should primarily comply with PAGCOR's Accreditation requirements in order to participate in the prequalification proceedings. The Application Form for Accreditation is available at the **SUPPLIERS ACCREDITATION & EVALUATION DIVISION (SAED), PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT (PPD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.**

For prequalification, send a letter of intent addressed to **MR. GERWYN P. SEE, Suppliers Accreditation & Evaluation Officer**. All Accreditation and Prequalification documents should be submitted before 5:00 P.M. of Friday, May 10, 2002. Failure to comply with the requirements will render outright disqualification. Inquiries may be coured through the **SUPPLIERS ACCREDITATION & EVALUATION DIVISION, Tel. No. 526-0573, Fax No. 523-2045.**

Other project details shall be distributed to all prequalified prospective bidders during the PRE-BID CONFERENCE, the schedule of which shall be relayed thru telephone or formal letters.

ACCEPTANCE AND OPENING OF BIDS shall be announced during the same conference.

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the undersigned.

(Sgd.) CARMENCITA A. ESPINOSA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) "B"

(PDI - April 24 & May 8, 2002)



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites direct Internet Service Providers ISP to a public bidding for the **PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES WITH 128 Kbps LEASED LINE / DSL** on May 30, 2002 (Thursday) at exactly 1:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue, corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instructions are available during office hours at the MIS Division, 2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue cor. Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before the pre-bid conference, which is hereby scheduled on Friday, May 17, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. thru Telephone No. 927-2731 or Fax No. 927-2698.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO L. DAGNAN
Commissioner and
Chairman, Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI - May 7, 8 & 9, 2002)



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INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Beauty history

Man's obsession with personal grooming has been going on for at least eight thousand years now. Painting, perfuming, and powdering the face and body, and dyeing the hair, began as parts of religious and war rites and are at least as old as written history. Archaeologists have unearthed palettes for grinding and mixing face powder and eye paint dating to 6000 B.C. In ancient Egypt, beauty shops and perfume factories were flourishing by 4000 B.C., and the art of makeup was already highly skilled and widely practiced. The favorite color for eyeshade then was green, the preferred lipstick blue-black, and the acceptable rouge red. And in those bare-breasted times, a woman accented veins on her bosom in blue and tipped her nipples gold.

For the Record. Perfume was first used not to attract a member of the opposite sex, but to scent the dead and mask the stench of decaying human flesh. Later it became a fixture at ancient sacred shrines, where it was the concern of priests, not cosmeticians. It survives today in church services in the form of incense, its other original function.

Oops! Contrary to what some people believe, birthmarks are not the result of a fright experienced by the mother while pregnant. Shocks do not cause birthmarks nor do they leave any physical traces on the fetus. Generally, a birthmark is a malformation of a blood vessel.

WORD WATCH

Rhytiphobia (ri ti foh bi uh) : fear of getting wrinkles.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Itogon-Suyoc row on exemption rages

By Doris C. Dumlaog

FORMER trade secretary Roberto Ongpin and Philippine Stock Exchange director Robert Cuyuto Jr. remained at odds over the controversial exemption of dormant mining firm Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. from the listing rules of the local bourse.

Ongpin, who was elected chair of ISMI last year after his technology holding firm Philweb.com acquired a 40-percent stake in the mining firm, is not giving up on his bid for ISMI's exemption.

Not only is ISMI bracing for a legal battle to counter Cuyuto's petition with the Court of Appeals to nullify an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that granted such exemption, Ongpin has threatened to file a multibillion-peso damage suit against Cuyuto because of the broker's alleged harassment of ISMI.

Ongpin said ISMI would immediately file a motion to dismiss the "totally groundless" derivative suit filed by Cuyuto, a PSE director and former chair of the PSE listing committee.

"His continued harassment of ISMI, specially his latest ploy of filing a derivative suit, has caused untold damage to ISMI and we can no longer permit him to get away with it," Ongpin said.

ISMI is presently quantifying the damage Cuyuto's actions have

caused the company, "but I can assure you it will be a substantial amount," Ongpin said.

"The problem with Mr. Cuyuto is that he seems unable to accept defeat gracefully. We can of course understand that he lost face when his stand against ISMI was totally repudiated by the SEC. But what he is doing now is tantamount to a vendetta against ISMI, and it is now time to put a stop to it," Ongpin said.

A 71-page petition filed by Cuyuto on April 25 sought a temporary restraining order on the PSE, his 14 fellow directors at the PSE board and ISMI from implementing the SEC directive that favored such exemption.

The SEC overruled with finality the decision of the previous PSE board to disallow the listing of additional ISMI shares relating to Philweb's buy-in. It argued that the PSE had "exceeded its discretion" by refusing to grant cash-strapped ISMI exemption from a requirement to undertake a stock rights offering prior to the sale of shares to a new investor.

Cuyuto's derivative or representative suit, on the other hand, claimed to "protect or vindicate PSE's corporate rights as a self-regulatory organization (SRO) under the Securities Regulation Code from the unlawful interference of the SEC."

A derivative suit means that the cause of action devolves on the corporation, the wrongdoing or harm having been, or being caused to the corporation and not to the particular stockholder bringing the suit.

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, May 7, 2002)	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME	May 7, 2002 Country
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES							
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	68.5	69.5	424,300	United States	Dollar
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	250	Japan	Yen
Chiyata Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000	United Kingdom	Pound
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	36.5	37	456,900	Hong Kong	Dollar
First E-Bank Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	118,000	Switzerland	Franc
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	41	39.5	40	124,800	Canada	Dollar
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	8,100	Singapore	Dollar
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22	22.5	29,000	Australia	Dollar
FINANCIAL SERVICE							
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1055	1060	1065	520	Bahrain	Dinar
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL							
COMMUNICATION							
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29	29	29	29	9,600	Saudi Arabia	Rial
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,520,000	Brunei	Dollar
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	645	23,580	Indonesia	Rupiah
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	1,200,000	Thailand	Baht
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	25,000	UAE	Dirham
Piltel	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000	Korea	Won
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	450	450	447.5	450	94,520	Euro	Euro
Ventage Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	300,000	Brazil	Real
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	14,700,000	Denmark	Kroner
POWER & ENERGY							
Manila Electric Co. A	25	25.5	25	25	168,200	Malaysia	Ringgit
Manila Electric Co. B	40	41	39.5	40	809,700	Mexico	New Peso
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.62	1.64	5,027,000	New Zealand	Dollar
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.72	1.76	200,000	Norway	Kroner
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000	Pakistan	Rupee
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	1,617,000	South Africa	Rand
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000	Sweden	Kroner
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	40,000	Syria	Pound
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS							
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000	Taiwan	NT Dollar
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO							
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	72,700	Venezuela	Bolivar
La Tondela Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	87,300		
RPM Corp.	1.24	1.36	1.24	1.36	4,894,000		
Swift Food Inc.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	36,000		
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	48.5	49.5	66,000		
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	57	57.5	314,700		
HOLDING FIRMS							
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000		
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,294,000		
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	89,000		
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	200,000		
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	200,000		
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	22,000,000		
ATM Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.7	97,000		
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.62	1,040,000		
A Brown Company Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000		
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000		
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000		
Ebacom Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3,000		
Filestate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000		
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	359,000		
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	564,900		
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000		
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	220,000		
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	50,000		
Macro Asia Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000		
Medco Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000		
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.8	5,470,000		
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	20,000		
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,800,000		
Musica Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000		
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000		
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000		
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	190,000		
Unilife Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	320,000		
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING							
Carro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000		
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	70,000		
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE							
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,930,000		
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000		
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.4	210,000		
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	11	12	11	11	14,500		
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	230,000		
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS							
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29.5	30	28.5	28.5	458,300		
DMCI Holdings Inc. -Pdr	770	770	770	770	6,390		
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	770	770	765	765	4,300		
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	5,000		
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000		
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300		
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100		
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300		
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000		
PROPERTY							
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.2	7	7.1	4,630,000		
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	4,000,000		
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000		
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000		
Fininvest Land Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	9,075,000		
Highlands Prime Leisure	2	2	2	2	125,000		
Filestate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	250,000		
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	10,000		
SM Development Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	60,000		
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	2,445,000		
MINING							
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.041	8,100,000		
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	850,000		
Polar Mines & Dev'l Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	4,000,000		
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	400,000		
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	2,030,000		
OIL							
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000		
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	177,000,000		
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	153,000,000		
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000		
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000		
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	580,000		
SHARES							
Banks & Fin Svc	1,163.870				52,964,125.00		
Comm'l & Ind'l	74,132.290				207,129,535.00		
PRO	21,145.000				74,144,310.00		
Mining	15,380.000				1,260,900.00		
OIL	331,990.000				1,406,700.00		
GRAND TOTALS:	443,811.160				336,905,570.00		
AVERAGES							
Banks & Fin Svc	561.23				DOWN 9.66		
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,801.23				DOWN 5.87		
PRO	603.05				DOWN 15.52		
Mining	1,377.44				DOWN 3.34		
OIL	1.36				DOWN 0.05		
All Shares Index	756.43				DOWN 8.48		
Composite	1,343.83				DOWN 13.82		
NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 1,702							

DISCLOSURES

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. signed a debt settlement agreement with creditor banks **Land Bank of the Philippines** and **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.** Both banks hold over 60 percent of the company's total debts.

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. declared a P0.20-per-share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of June 3 and shall be payable starting June 28. Also, the company appropriated P400 million for future expansion, modernization and upgrading of equipment and other facilities.

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. disclosed that the Board of Investments approved the application of its wholly owned subsidiary, **Zenith Corp.** as new domestic producer of processed food on a non-pioneer status.

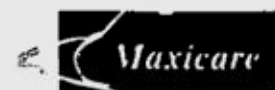
KUOK Philippines Properties Inc. entered into a five-year secured term loan agreement of \$62.5 million with **Rhinestone Ltd.**, a major foreign investor of the company. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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PSE names new committees

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has created three more new committees in line with its organizational restructuring as a newly demutualized institution.

In a memorandum to member-brokers yesterday, PSE senior vice president Jose Cervantes said the bourse had formed committees on investments, strategic development and governance.

The new committee on strategic development consolidated the former business development, demutualization and technology committees while the governance committee took the place of the former business conduct and ethics committee.

PSE president Ernest Leung, an ex-officio member of all the other committees was assigned to chair the investments committee.

The ex-officio members of the investment committee were

Rodolfo Cruz of HK Securities (incumbent PSE treasurer) and Reynaldo Reyes (assistant PSE treasurer) and non-broker director Peter Favila (listing committee co-chair).

Appointed to co-chair the strategic development committee were PSE directors Alicia Rita Arroyo of RCBC Securities and newly elected non-broker representative Enrique Aboitiz Jr.</

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OBITUARIES

*We Lovingly Remember
 on the Twentieth Death Anniversary
 of our Dear Mommy*

Luisa Ongcapin Tagaysay

who passed away on Mother's Day May 9, 1982

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Thursday, May 9, 2002
 at the following churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills	7:15 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, Greenhills	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHAPEL, Libis, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.
CHRIST THE KING PARISH, Greenmeadows, Q.C.	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE (EDSA Shrine)	12:15 noon
STA. RITA DE CASCA PARISH, Philamlife Homes, Q.C.	6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, Proj. 4, Q.C.	6:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ABANDONED, Hulo, Mandaluyong	6:30 a.m.
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE ABANDONED, Sta. Ana, Mla.	6:30 a.m.
NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART, SAV, Makati	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati	12:15 noon
NUSTRA SRA. DE GRACIA PARISH, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
HOLY CROSS PARISH, J.P. Rizal, Makati	6:00 p.m.
CENACLE RETREAT HOUSE, Loyola Heights, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF PEACE & GOOD VOYAGE, Antipolo City	9:00 a.m.
MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, Quiapo, Manila	10:00 a.m.
SAN LORENZO RUIZ MINOR BASILICA, Binondo, Manila	8:15 a.m.
ST. JUDE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE, San Miguel, Manila	8:00 a.m.
STA. CRUZ PARISH CHURCH, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 a.m.
ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH, West Orange N.J. U.S.A.	9:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, R. Cucamonga C.A. U.S.A.	7:00 a.m.
LE PETIT COUVENT CHAPEL, Lourdes, France	8:00 a.m.

*We, her family, request relatives, friends and the pious readers
 to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.*

Our Dearly Beloved

**LEONORA "NORA"
 RIVERA LABAYEN**

of Alaminos, Pangasinan

*peacefully joined our Lord on May 6, 2002
 at the age of 83.*

Her loving husband BENJAMIN; children MANUEL, LESLIE, DENNIS, BENJAMIN, JR., MARILYN SACASAS, MILAGROS ATIENZA, JOSE, LOUIS, and LEON; together with her in-laws, grandchildren and other relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Remains lie in state at the Rivera residence, Poblacion, Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Interment details will be announced later.

VICTOR JOSE HENSON DIZON

of Angeles City

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord
 on May 6, 2002 at the age of 71.*

His bereaved wife LUZVISMIND; children ERIC, ASER and EDNA, ABEL and SHARMIE, NINGNING and BONG; grandchildren DOMINIC, MITCHIE, ANN, JAY, ARA, INNA and BEA; his BROTHERS and SISTER relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the FUNERARIA ANGELINA, Sto. Rosario St., Angeles City.

INTERMENT to be announced later.

**I am
 the way,
 the truth
 and
 the life.
 No one
 comes
 to the
 Father
 except
 through
 Me.**

John 14:6

*In Loving Memory
 on the 8th Death Anniversary of*
ISAIAS P. DIMAYA

Who joined his Creator on May 8, 1994

His family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him always in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

Mt. Carmel Church	May 8, 6:30 AM
Laoag City	
Lourdes Church	May 8, 6:30 AM
Quezon City	
Inmaculate Conception Parish Church	May 8, 6:30 AM
7211 West Talcott Avenue	
Chicago, Illinois, 60621	
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church	May 8, 6:45 AM
Scott Road, Burbank, California	

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THE CONGREGATION OF THE
 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (CICM)
 requests your prayers for

REV. FR. HENRI "RIK" MAMPAEY, CICM

*born in Brabant, Leuven, Belgium on October 11, 1928,
 he died in Baguio City on May 7, 2002,
 at the age of 73.*

*He served in various capacities as a missionary in Aritao,
 Bagabag, Baguio, La Trinidad, Sablan, Conner, Aglipay,
 Kabayan and Sabangan.*

His remains lie in state at the Home Sweet Home Chapel in Baguio City until May 9, 2002.

Interment will be on May 9, 2002 (Thursday), at the CICM Cemetery after the 9:00 A.M. Mass of the Resurrection at Maryhurst Seminary, Baguio City.

PLEASE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS ETERNAL REPOSE.

Card of Thanks

The family and relatives of the late

PROSPERO B. SEMANA

*who peacefully joined his Creator
 on April 30, 2002.*

*wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to
 all those who in one way or another condoled with
 them in their hour of bereavement.*

DR. ANGEL SINGSON ENCARNACION, M.D.

(Vigan, Ilocos Sur and Manila)

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 66.

His beloved wife Atty. Leonida G. Tamsel-Encarnacion; son Angel Michael T. Encarnacion, Jr. and daughter-in-law Ma. Cynthia V. Quizon and grandchildren Alexandra Marie & Enrique Miguel request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. John Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass on Thursday, May 9, 2002.

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting
 tribute to your departed loved one.*

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Nestle-Coke venture eyes bigger stake in RTD beverage market in RP

BEVERAGE Partners Worldwide (BPW), the newly formed global joint venture between the Coca-Cola Company and Nestle, is going full steam ahead in its spirited marketing effort to fill up bright opportunities in the local fast-growing ready-to-drink beverages market.

World beverage giants Coca-Cola Company and Nestle earlier formed BPW, a 50-50 joint venture, in a move to pool their vast resources and know-how to create added business opportunities and accelerate the growth of RTD tea, coffee, and functional beverages. This partnership draws strength from the experience of both Coca-Cola and Nestle in brand development, product distribution, and systems and technical support.

BPW will leverage on Coca-Cola's manufacturing, distribution, and marketing infrastructure to further grow RTD Nestea Iced Tea in the Philippines. Nestea in powdered format will remain with Nestle Phils. Inc.

While Nestea already holds a strong position in its respective

market, its RTD format is still under-developed. Avenues for growth would come from broadening distribution in supermarkets, convenience stores, and quick service restaurants.

Nestea, as the leader in the BPW portfolio, faces very promising prospects, based on its worldwide performance particularly in the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Italy, Switzerland, and Spain.

In the Philippines, Coca-Cola's non-carbonated beverages business unit (NCB) is spearheading efforts to market Nestea in fountain, and later on, in cans.

Joyce Misa, category manager for NCB's teas and sports drinks, expresses positive outlook for the partnership between Coca-Cola and Nestle as well as for RTD Nestea's sales in the Philippines.

"Clearly, Nestea has an impressive track record of market-leading sales worldwide. Hopefully, its performance in the local market will be able to fulfill high expectations because studies show that the Philippines is also an ice tea country," she said.



PROFESSIONAL LIFE, NAPOCOR SIGN CONTRACT

Professional Life has been named by Napocor, through its Welfare Fund Services Division, as its exclusive Mortgage Redemption Insurance and Loan Redemption Insurance Programs provider. Shown (seated, from left) are Eulogio A. Mendoza, Professional Life president and CEO, Carmencita B. Nero, Napocor Welfare Fund Services

division manager, and Bobby M. Alfonso, Professional Life EVP. Witnessing the contract signing (from left) are Jing M. Sotelo, Professional Life group marketing manager, Juarilita H. Marquez, Napocor AFRS chief, and Ramon Nonato C. Chavez, Napocor Welfare Fund Services Division Internal auditor.

Product FILES

NEC VT45: projecting a winning image



THE NEC VT45 portable projector has been given the award as the Best Buy in the March 2002 Issue of Home Cinema Choice. It also gained the best entry-level portable projector in Hardware Zone Awards and best projector in Tech Awards 2002. These are just some of

the award-winning accomplishments of NEC VT45 as the newest ultra-portable projector.

Paving the way to success, the NEC VT45 projector is known for its distinctive features. With manual lens shift, enabling users to adjust the location of the projected image horizontally and vertically without moving the projector. It's bright enough at 1000 Ansi lumens for use in small to large meeting rooms, classrooms and conference rooms, and is as light as 2.5 kg. Easy for first-time users with its Auto Sense Technology for automatic setup and one-touch adjustments, including a manual AccuBlend intelligent pixel blending technology for excellent native and non-native resolution display up to SXGA. All these, plus a flavor of built-in home entertainment. This latest advancement in projectors is exclusively distributed by Pixeltone Multimedia Co with telephone numbers 726-0199, fax 727-9710, or e-mail pxtone@info.com.ph.

May extravaganza at JMK

MAY will be a busy month for the Julius Maggi Kitchen as Nestle Philippines Inc.'s test kitchen brings in an array of worthwhile activities for cooking enthusiasts and homemakers from all ages.

First in line is Dorothy Fereria's cooking workshop exclusive for youngsters looking for constructive ways to spend summer. Dorothy Fereria, the famous culinary guru, will broaden children's horizons in cooking as she shares her style in chocolate-making and Asian cooking. Kids are invited to come to JMK on

May 9 and 11 and learn with Dorothy. For more details and information on Dorothy's summer cooking workshop, call 721-7735 or 416-7968.

Meanwhile, a demonstration on ground meat cooking featuring patisserie instructor and pastry chef Philippe Agnese will take place at JMK on May 14, 16, 18, 23 and 25. Chef Philippe will feature three sumptuous recipes that will whet your appetite: Tomato Soup with Chicken Dumplings, Pork Oriental Fried Rice, and Chocolate Koko Crunch

F-String celebrates fashion, style and music

JOIN the celebration as style and music fuse forces via F-String, a series of fashion shows highlighting the latest collection of the country's top eight trendsetters in the fashion industry. From the Red, White and You by Penshoppe to the Fseries by Bum, Fun Fashion by Hang Ten, Denims by Buffalo, Glamour by Sari-Sari, Ultimate Fighter, Free Radicals, and Global to go by GBX, Stars & Stripe, Yin & Yan and Red Sun by 26 Red, and Summer Collection by Freeway.

This one-of-a-kind-event will be held in four major malls within Metro Manila, with a major kick-off at Robinsons Place Manila, Orosa wing on May 8 and 9; SM Manila, 4th level Activity Center on May 15 and 16; Festival Supermall, Expo Trade and Music Hall on May 18

Custard.

On the same dates, Odette Alcantara, founding member of Mother Earth Unlimited and a renowned advocate of proper waste management, will take centerstage as she shares her golden rules on household waste

Center on May 21 and 22.

Along with this fashion mall tour are musical performances from Star Records. Watch out for Robert Seña, Roselle Nava, Tootsie Guevarra, Danilo Barrios, Heart Evangelista, Carol Banawa, Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragosa as they rock the house with a bang.

Beauty and style booth activities will also be available to provide total makeover to mall goers for free.

F-String is presented by Block and White, in cooperation with Epson, La Cremeria, Don Henrico's, Maybelline, L'Oreal Paris, Heartstring, Color Trends, Weighless Center, Heritage Photography and Yehey.com. Media partners are Sunday Inquirer Magazine, RX 93.1, TM 89.9 and Channel E. This event is organized by Team Ventures and AMG Productions.

disposal. She will offer a lecture and demonstration on household waste management and composting.

Visit JMK this May and be part of its various activities. For reservations, call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

This blank space is part of a color experiment. If you turn to the page behind this ad, you will find an array of color patches. These patches are part of a color audit we are performing in cooperation with this newspaper to determine consistency with various printing industry and ISO standards for graphic reproduction. These patches will be measured by scientific color instruments and software. To ensure the accuracy of our measurements, we have to keep this space empty. Lexmedia Digital will release an ICC Output Profile based on these accumulated measurements for integration into your graphic software applications.

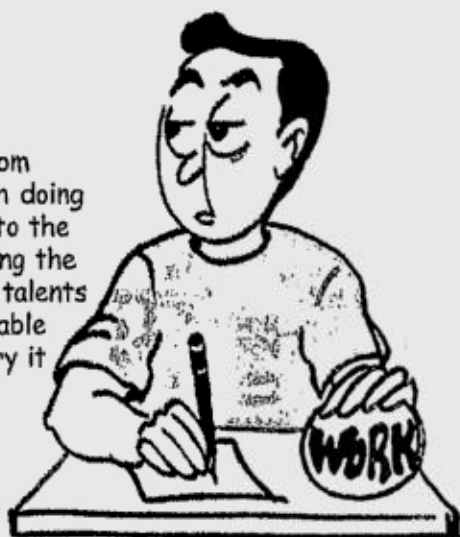


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Are you toxic?

By Teresa R. Tunay

1 Your stinginess can prevent good things from coming your way. If you're always stuck on doing only the amount of work that corresponds to the amount that you are paid, you may be missing the chance to show your employers your other talents and skills that could make you a truly valuable worker! "It is in giving that we receive"—try it and see how it works.



5 You think it's okay to ask your good buddy to punch in for you from time to time. This is stealing! Besides, you're infecting another person with your dishonesty. Shame on you!



2 Use work tools and equipment as if they have been bought with your own money, and your concern will reflect commendable work performance.

7 Why don't we take a good inward look at ourselves and think how many other destructive attitudes we have? Even if it hurts, admission is the first step we can take.



6 "I have no choice but to take some office supplies for my son to use for school!—what, with the measly salary they give me!" you say to yourself as you bring home pencils and bond paper from the supplies room. Well, one day, your son will come home with a stolen cell phone, and when he tells you he has no choice because of the measly allowance you give him, what will you say?

3 It looks like the company has a huge budget for supplies and equipment, so why should you be frugal? Well, the more money the company spends on overhead expenses (office supplies included), the smaller the profit it makes. This then means that company can give fewer benefits to its workers. Who is at the losing end now?



8 If we examine them closely, we'll realize that it is we who are at the losing end of this selfishness. Evil never fails to boomerang, you know.



We must realize that we, the workers and the company, are one. If the company loses due to our lack of concern, we lose, too. If our productivity enables the company to make profits, we receive more, too. In aiming to put one over our company, we are limiting our own opportunities for progress, peace and prosperity. So let's not lose faith in the goodness of our employers. It's not prudent to feel cheated, clam up about it and try to get even in sneaky little ways. If certain things don't seem right, let's dialogue. For our employers to treat us with respect, let us show them that we deserve it—by being the best of whatever we are.

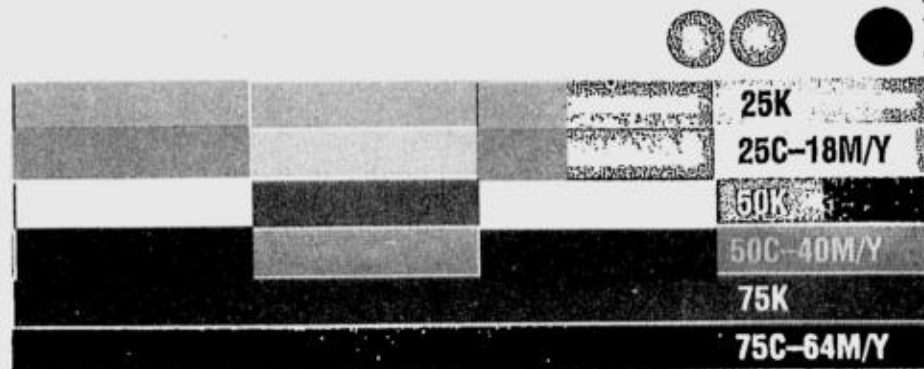
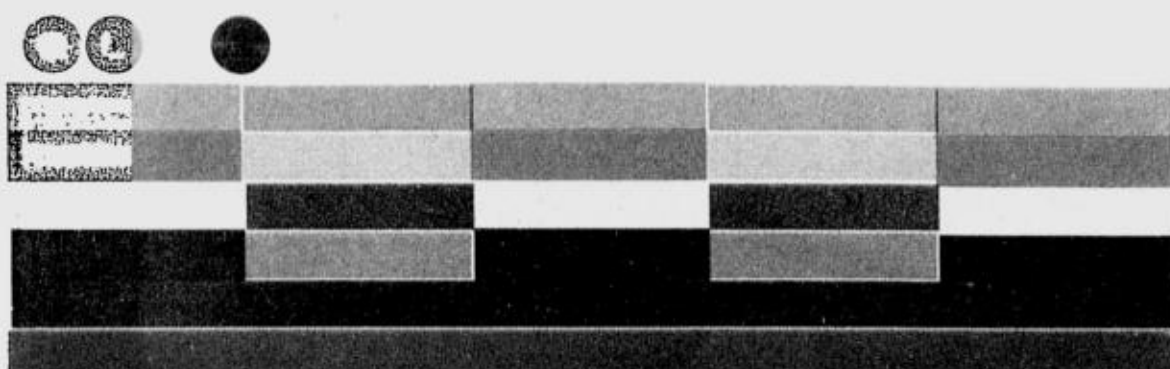
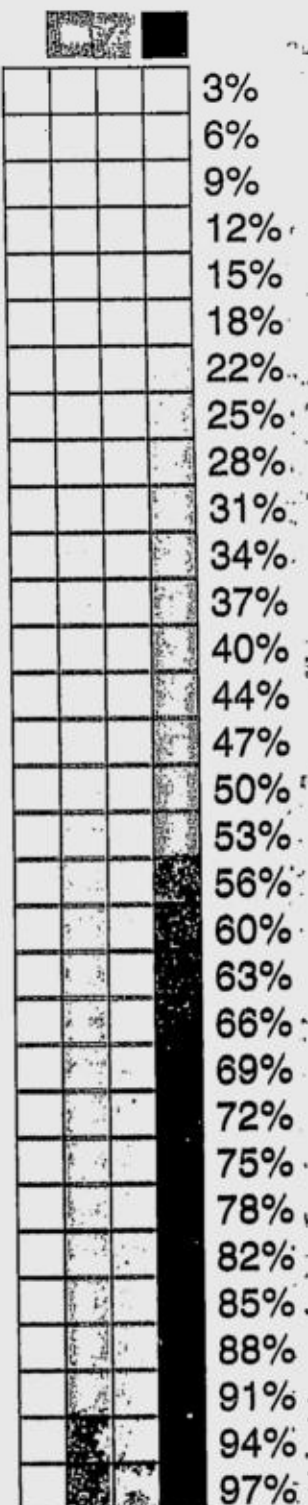
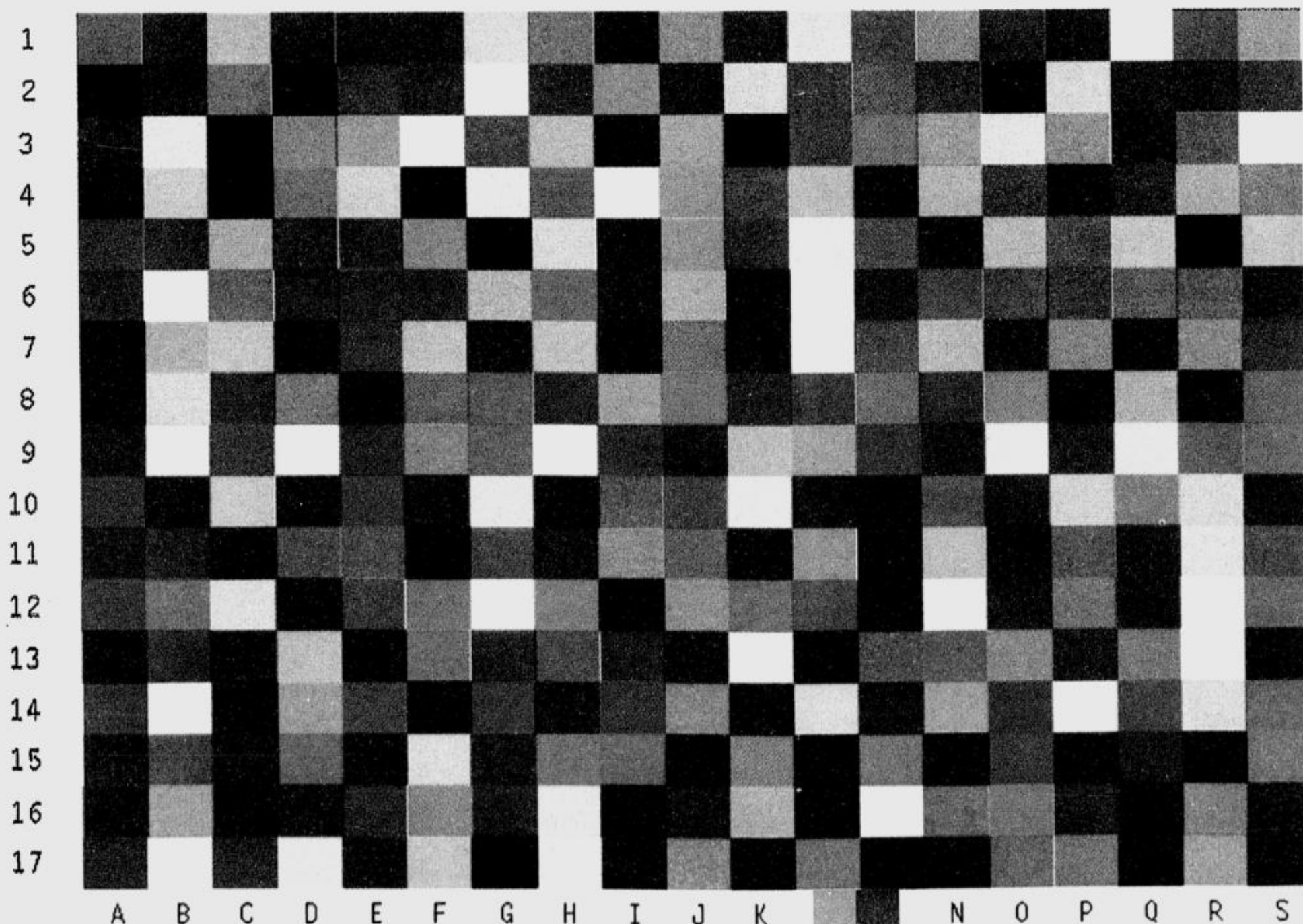
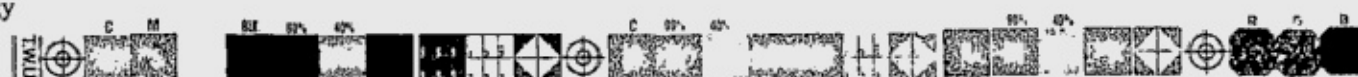


4 You may think nothing of placing an overseas call to your friend—the boss doesn't inspect the phone bills anyway. True, but God certainly knows how much you owe Him.

To our readers:

As part of our continuous quality improvement program, we are printing color test patches below. These patches are of great value to advertising agencies and production houses in standardizing the colors in advertisements. Additionally, our printers use these patches to improve the printing of the Inquirer. In short, better-looking pictures for you.

Gary Libby
AVP - Information Technology



Happiness is a choice

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara



I HOPE you're hell bent on getting the happiness you deserve this month. Don't just wait for Mother's Day, stretch the happy moments to all four weeks of May. And beyond. Happiness is, after all, not a fleeting indulgence, but a choice.

Agreements

I'm taking my working mom points from the deceptively simple yet life-changing book of the Mexican writer, Don Miguel Ruiz. He wrote the book "Four Agreements" based on the teachings of his ancestors, the Toltecs. I believe his book contains a powerful message for those of us burning out from our balancing acts. Whether you are running out of steam on the work side of your juggling act, or getting all worn out on the family side, the perspective he offers can help us strike a balance and be

happy in the process.

His premise is this: most of the drama and suffering, the stress and pressure, in our lives is self-created. We burn out because we have agreed to burn out. We are miserable because we have agreed to be miserable. But, according to Ruiz, there is another way. By refusing to live according to the dictates of the world around us on what they say we must be, how much we must accomplish, what we must do and by making four simple agreements with ourselves, we can find happiness as we are, where we are.

Honor your word

First Agreement: Be impeccable with your word. Don't say it unless you mean it. How many times have we found ourselves caught between wanting to tell the truth and the fear that the truth will not live up to other people's expectations? You've been there before; you know the routine. We sometimes candy-coat the truth to stay on the good

side of our boss. But the energy we spend making sure our boss doesn't find us out is energy better spent building than hiding. We burn out when we are afraid. Ruiz says the key to happiness is in the action not the result. In other words, our happiness will come not from the fact that our boss did not get angry, but from the sheer pleasure of telling the truth.

Second Agreement: Don't take anything personally—what other people say or do isn't because of you, it's because of their own life experiences. When your children snap at you or when your

officemate ignores you, step back. Don't take the hit personally, you are most likely not the target. Brooding about the way they treat you could be an utter waste of energy, simply because it is not about you but about them.

No preconceptions

Third Agreement: Don't make assumptions—preconceived ideas about what other people think can get you into trouble and rigid notions of how things should be lead to disappointment. This agreement could be our way out of our working mom guilt trip. We make assumptions about what other people think and feel about us. Our boss may think us incompetent, our husband may think us irresponsible, our children may reject us. When we assume what people think and cling to this belief, danger begins. We move like a headless chicken trying to please everybody and in the process, we please nobody. Our en-

ergy is wasted.

Fourth Agreement: Always do your best, but no more. Pour all your energy into the task at hand. Give it all you've got; but when it is done, let go. No use beating yourself up over work that's already done. You must measure your achievement based on the energy that you gave it, not on what people will say about it. Ditch the guilt. Throw out the what-ifs. Pick up the lessons and try your best again.

Time out

Try making these agreements with yourself this Mother's Day and see how happy you can be.

If you'd like to hear more on a working mom's balancing act, join Time Out For Mom organized by the cable network Star World. I would be there to talk to about a woman's need for balance. It's a whole day affair with talks by Maricel Laxa on being fit for life, Cory Quirino on beauty and

wellness, plus fashion and beauty workshops.

Pampering

To start you off on your month-long pampering, Metro Working and Rustan's Department Store in Makati have put together an array of irresistible treats. Within the pages of our May issue, with Jackie Lou Blanco on the cover, are five coupons, which you can exchange for treats at Rustan's Makati. These include free foot massages, beauty makeovers, fashion consultations and more. This is our way of making sure you get the happiness you deserve on Mother's Day. Celebrate!

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. E-mail your working mom experiences and tips to workingmom@pinoycentral.com.

Wear the shoes of abundance

"WAITER, I have a perfect life but I don't have a knife" is the opening statement of Benjamin Zander and Rosamund Stone Zander in their book "The Art of Possibility."

Intriguing. An invitation to possibility, indeed. To a leader it poses a challenge, a contradiction, a problem to solve, an opportunity to explore, a leadership puzzle.

Shoe views

Take this story about a shoe factory that sends two marketing scouts to a region in Africa to study the prospects for expanding business. One sends back a telegram saying, "Situation hopeless stop no one wears shoes." The other writes back triumphantly, "Glorious business opportunity stop they have no shoes."

Which reply best describes you?

If your answer is the first telegram, you are one who says that the glass is half empty, thrives in scarcity thinking and is maybe feeling hopeless with your present situation. If your answer is the second one, you are one who sees the glass as half full, thinks in terms of abundance and looks at life with hope and possibilities.

Neuroscience

To quote Ben and Ros Zander: "Experiments in neuroscience have demonstrated that we reach an understanding of the world in roughly this sequence: first, our sense bring us selective information about what is out there; second, the brain constructs its own simulation of the sensations; and only then, third, do we have our first conscious experience of our milieu. The world comes into our consciousness in the form of a map already drawn, a story already told, a hypothesis, a con-

struction of our own making...The senses of every species are fine-tuned to perceive information critical to their survival."

Thus, when you say that the situation is hopeless it mirrors your own hopelessness. You only see what you want to see and form conclusions from them. In logic you reason: Premise A, the people don't wear shoes; Premise B, they don't know what shoes are or they don't have a need for shoes or they have other things to do and why bother about shoes or they are comfortable not wearing any shoes or they don't have money for shoes or they can't climb trees with shoes on or they can't run fast with shoes or they love to feel the earth under their feet; Therefore, situation is hopeless, there is no market there for shoes.

Forward view

When you say that there is glorious opportunity for your shoe business when you observe that people are barefooted it reflects your strategic and forward-looking view. In logic you say: Premise A, the people have no shoes; Premise B, they may be persuaded to wear shoes or they may be attracted to shoes because it is something new or they may want protection from accidents and disease or the short guys can look taller using platform shoes or the ladies will look prettier with shoes on; Therefore, there is a big market for shoes there and there is no competition.

Premise A is the given. It is as true, as factual, as undeniable, as perceptible and as sure as your name is Stella Dasmariñas.

Programming

Premise B is your own way of looking at things, at the world

RECIPES for LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino



around you. It is what you think is what you see, smell, taste, hear and feel. It is your worldview or how you are "programmed to receive" the sensations and recognize only those for which you have mental maps or categories.

The Zanders write that the world comes to us sorted and packaged. This programming started since you were a child and is reinforced as you grow older by not changing them. You have a concrete personal construct of what is "good and bad," "right and wrong," "tall and short," "beautiful and ugly," "few and many," "adequate and inadequate," "happy and sad," "full and empty," "fair and unfair," and other dichotomies and continuum. And they seem to have been written in stone. Sacred and unchangeable.

Limits

Premise B is your limit, your box, your world. It is as far as you want to stretch your imagination. It is the means to your desired end. It is your strengths and weaknesses. It is the opportunities and threats around you.

The "therefore" is your personal Vision, Mission, Values and Goals. It is your dream. It is what you want to do with and to happen in your life after considering your personal circumstances.

The Zander couple says that our minds are also designed to string events into story lines, whether or not there is any con-

nection between the parts. We follow the logic of cause and effect, whether or not these "reasons" accurately portray any of the real motivational forces at work. It is, indeed, our experience that we see a map of the world which contain our biases, preferences, wants and desires, experiences, feelings; and not the world itself.

If you are the second person in our shoe story, you are ready to practice the teachings of Morrie Shwarz ("Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom) which we discussed lengthily last column. And the best time to start is now.

Open mind

If you are the first shoe marketing scout, there is a need to rethink your assumptions that gives you what you perceive. It is might also help to think in terms of "what if." And maybe it is time to knockdown some of your beliefs, philosophies, hab-

its and practices that have been with you since you can remember or because of one traumatic experience. It is easier to lead yourself from a position of strength and an open mind.

ASTD UPDATES: The American Society for Training & Development (ASTD) International Conference and Exposition shall be held in New Orleans this June 2 to 6, 2002. You may get details and register via www.astd.org using our delegation code #114072 to avail of the discounted registration fee. Or call Lito Dolfo (715-9332) to get the materials by fax and Ms Ellen Marbella or Bambie of Orient Overseas Travel (892-6321 or 0917-7357224) for the



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

airfare and hotel package. (E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

14 ways to double your productivity

By Joel Garfinkle

INCREASING efficiency and productivity often bring forth images of someone standing with a stopwatch timing every activity with a watchful eye. Henry Ford first used the talent of an efficiency expert to build cars faster and more economically. What resulted was the assembly line where the same motion is repeated over and over to eliminate any wasted motion.

You don't have to work on an assembly line to take advantage of the time saving tips they recognized, however. By taking a little time to plan and prepare, you can find extra hours in your day to complete the work you want to do and still have fun.

These useful and effective exercises will only be beneficial if you can be productive and efficient with your time. Victor Hugo says, "He who every morning plans the transactions of the day and follows out that plan, carries a thread that will guide him through the labyrinth of the most busy life."

Listed below are ways to use your time in the best possible way:

1. Plan your work.

Plan your work and work your plan. Set aside 10 to 15 planning minutes at the start of each day or at the end of your day to create a to-do list for your upcoming activities and you will know what your important tasks are before you start the day. This advance planning can save more than an hour a day.

Action step: Take a moment right now and decide which time of the day is best for you to set aside for this planning period. Whether it's 6:00 a.m. or midnight, commit to a time period now.

2. Use time efficiently.

Be productive with your time. Remember that we all have exactly the same number of hours each day as were given to Helen Keller, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Da Vinci and Einstein.

Action step: You can use time waiting for appointments or waiting in line to catch up on material you need to read and use today's tools to greatly increase productivity. Look at the activities that fill your day and determine ways they could be done more efficiently or eliminated. By shaving

minutes off of several tasks throughout the day, you can free up a larger block of time later. Think of two ways you could save time in your daily schedule:

3. Use your most productive hours for your most important tasks.

Some of us are early risers, and others are night owls. If you need time to wake and truly get started in the day, don't attempt to force an early morning deadline to your schedule. Ask yourself, what do I need to get done today in order to feel complete and when am I most productive? Focus on what is most important and less on how fast you are going. Spend 20 percent of your day on the most important tasks and you will accomplish 80 percent of your results.

Action step: Choose a daily goal you want to achieve and decide what time of the day you have the most energy or creativity to get the job done. Commit that time to that goal. List one sample goal here to get you started.

4. Prioritize your most important activities.

Write down the important tasks and set them in order of priority. Focus on only the three most important projects. What are the most important tasks? If I can only accomplish one item today, which will it be? Is this activity the best use of my time, knowledge, creativity, and experience?

Concentrate on the most important activity until it's finished. After completing this task, recheck your priorities and tackle the next most important one. This process leads to a greater sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. Schedule appointments with yourself to work on the projects that are most important to you.

Action step: Think of those tasks you want to accomplish and write the top three here in order of importance:

5. Start now.

However big your long-term project may seem, it's important to begin. Hesitancy, fear, and self-doubt fade with action. For example, if you want to write a book, write one word down on a piece of

paper. This one word expands to a sentence, then a paragraph, and before long you will complete the entire chapter. What steps can you take now? Don't wait; do it!

Action step: List a first step you can take for the number one task you listed above. Commit to taking action on that first step today:

6. Say no to small projects.

Learn to say no to activities that may seem urgent but distract you from accomplishing your important, long-range projects. If you spend the majority of your energy putting out fires, you'll never find the time for the important activities in your life.

Action step: When someone asks you to do something that doesn't specifically need your particular touch, memorize and use this phrase with a smile: "Oh, I'm sorry. I'm afraid I don't have the time to take care of that in the way it deserves. Thank you for thinking of me."

7. Take baby steps.

Most long-term projects never are started because the whole endeavor seems so daunting. We take on the entire project all at once and overwhelm ourselves. Take small steps that you know you can accomplish. The more realistic your expectations the better. When you gain momentum, you can let the energy and excitement of the project take over, and you'll be fully engaged.

Action step: Look at the number one task you chose and the first step you listed above. Break that step into its smallest components and work on the first one of those.

(To be continued next week)
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I can't afford...

(From page B12)

my enthusiasm with helping people. I was prepared to continue. I was hoping that despite all the trouble and hassles I have encountered, I would still reap the reward of being a doctor. I am not talking purely about the financial compensation because I plan to have a business to take care of this. I am talking about the hundreds of people whom I will be able to treat once I become a doctor. The money for me, although we are in dire need of it, is just secondary.

I know that our country is in need of doctors now. It is not true that we are overflowing with physicians because there are still people who die of known treatable diseases in far-flung areas. All we need is a good program that will support doctors who will have their practice in the barrios. Also, it will be good if medical education is made available to those who are rightfully deserving because they want to serve neglected areas and not merely to those who can afford.

We do not need to buy houses or cars or fancy appliances and gadgets to show off and prove that we are competent doctors. Jesus did His work on earth and healed the sick only with a few belongings yet we consider Him as the Greatest Healer of all. I would like to follow His example. But now I am on the verge of quitting. I am currently looking for employment this summer. If I get one that will solve all our financial problems, I might reconsider medicine. Today, I don't have money to pay for my enrollment. Thank you for hearing me out. My gratitude to you and your column.

Helpless Medical Student

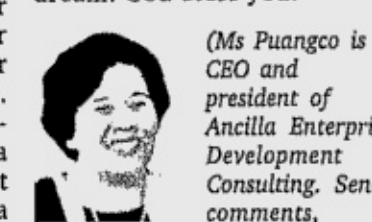
Thank you for your letter. It touched me very much. I could not help but feel empathy for you and the sacrifice of your parents to try and fulfill your dream of becoming a doctor. What can I say? If there is someone who deserves to become a doctor, it is you. For your heart is in the right place. Indeed, a big part of our population, especially in the barrios, die of treatable diseases.

I suggest the following op-

tions for you. One is to talk to the Dean of your school about your predicament. He/she may just grant an exception and give you a scholarship. Or try to convince the school to give you a "study now, pay later plan." Two, try to approach corporate foundations if they could give you a scholarship.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly call on my friends and clients who head foundations to look at the case of "helpless medical student" and give a helping hand. Or for business corporations who would be willing to hire someone with his background. Based on his letter, he has clearly strong competencies that would be useful for a hospital, a pharmaceutical company or for a health management organization. Finally, don't lose hope. Together, let us storm heaven with prayers to send you the "Good Samaritan" you need to achieve your dream. God bless you.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)



e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLEatWORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'I can't afford to become a doctor'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I am a 25-year-old medicine student about to enter my third year of studies. I received a BS degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from one of the top universities. I have already worked for two years prior to entering medical school in order to help my family. In the course of working, I was required to take the National Medical Admission. Modesty aside, I got a 98-percentile ranking and so my mother and I decided that I should pursue medicine. She promised to provide for all my needs as a student as she is the active breadwinner of the family. I entered the college ranked number 8 in the Medical College Admission Test and after my first year, was ranked 15th in a batch of 160 plus. I also became president of my class, the associate editor of our school paper, a member of the men's varsity volleyball team and presently the president of the biggest organization in our college.

I am the eldest in a family of three. Frankly, ours is not a well-off family. In the past two years of my study, I have lived in my aunt's house in Manila, an hour's commute away from school because we could not afford to pay for boarding elsewhere. My parents managed to pay my tuition, which is al-

Advice

FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

ready the minimum amount that the college requires for a paying student, but we do so on an installment basis.

More than once, my father, my aunt and my other relatives have tried to persuade me to stop studying because my mother has failed to come up with money to pay for my school fees and to provide for my daily allowance. Our house was mortgaged and all our savings were spent. It came to a point when I was really considering quitting in the middle of an examination week. The pressure had a negative effect on my studies such that I could not cope with the load emotionally and mentally. Still, I managed to reach my present status with no failing marks in any subject. A scholarship could have surely supported me but help for people like me is either not available in our school or I have not had the luck to come across it. (A 50-percent off the tuition fee will be given to those who get a 2.00 GWA. I got a 2.04 last year.)

I read the article you wrote in the Mar. 6, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER. It was



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

enough to make me contemplate on my future. There was so much insight in the things you said about reforms that the state should provide the medical educational system. It had me thinking about my own education. Of course you were using your background in business and the corporate world as reference to the principles. I have big doubts if these changes will ever materialize. Many university graduates will agree that the government does not have the ability to accurately plan the manpower requirements of the country. Proof

of this is the "brain drain phenomenon." I have heard of horror stories of Filipino doctors taking nursing units abroad to become registered nurses. There are also doctors who go abroad in the hope that they will be treated equally. They end up as mere helpers who are discriminated upon and treated in an inferior way in spite of their talents.

Honestly, I am already aware of the problems that Disappointed Doctor has pointed out. I was willing to take a chance on the system because of

ICANTAFFORD/B11

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HOW would you feel if your capital didn't earn interest? You'd feel you didn't get a good return on your investment. In the area of human capital, however, the return on your investment is hard to measure.

To help CEOs, CFOs and HR executives in this area of management, **Norman Ramion**, the regional senior HR consultant of Mercer Human Resources Consulting Group, will be flying in from Singapore to give a seminar on May 30, Thursday, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on "Measuring the Return On Investment (ROI) on Human Capital" at the Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1 Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City.

As a special offering, a free seat in this seminar will be given for every six paid registrations in the Seminar Series from May 28 to 30. For more information or to register, call tel. nos. 414-0186, 414-0587.

METRO WORKING MOM FOR MAY

CATCH the May issue of Metro Working Mom and read substantive articles like how to develop inner strength, how to get unstuck in a job you don't like and tips on network marketing. The People at Work page in the magazine tackles how you can get or renew your passion for work.

PEOPLE AT WORK ON STUDIO 23'S
BREAKFAST

START your week right and watch the People at Work segment every Monday on Studio 23's "Breakfast," which airs Monday to Friday from 6:30 to 8 a.m. For May 13, the topic is "How to get along with people at work." The resource person is Kahlil Bagatsing, Chief Operating Officer, Channel Technologies.



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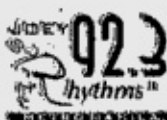
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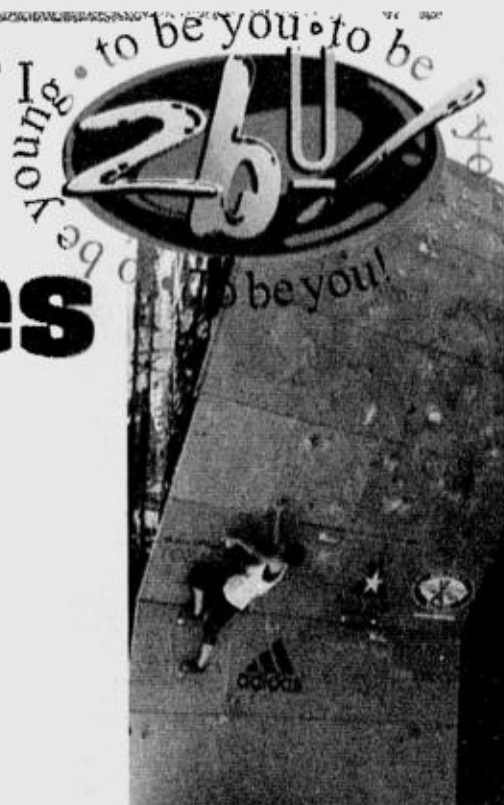
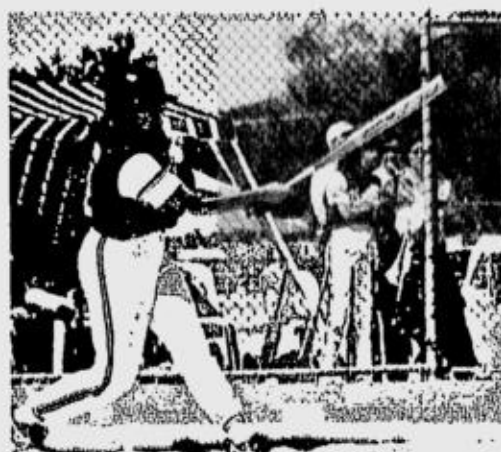
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THE 2BU! SUMMER SPORTS ISSUE, PART I

Let the games begin!



Take to the sun
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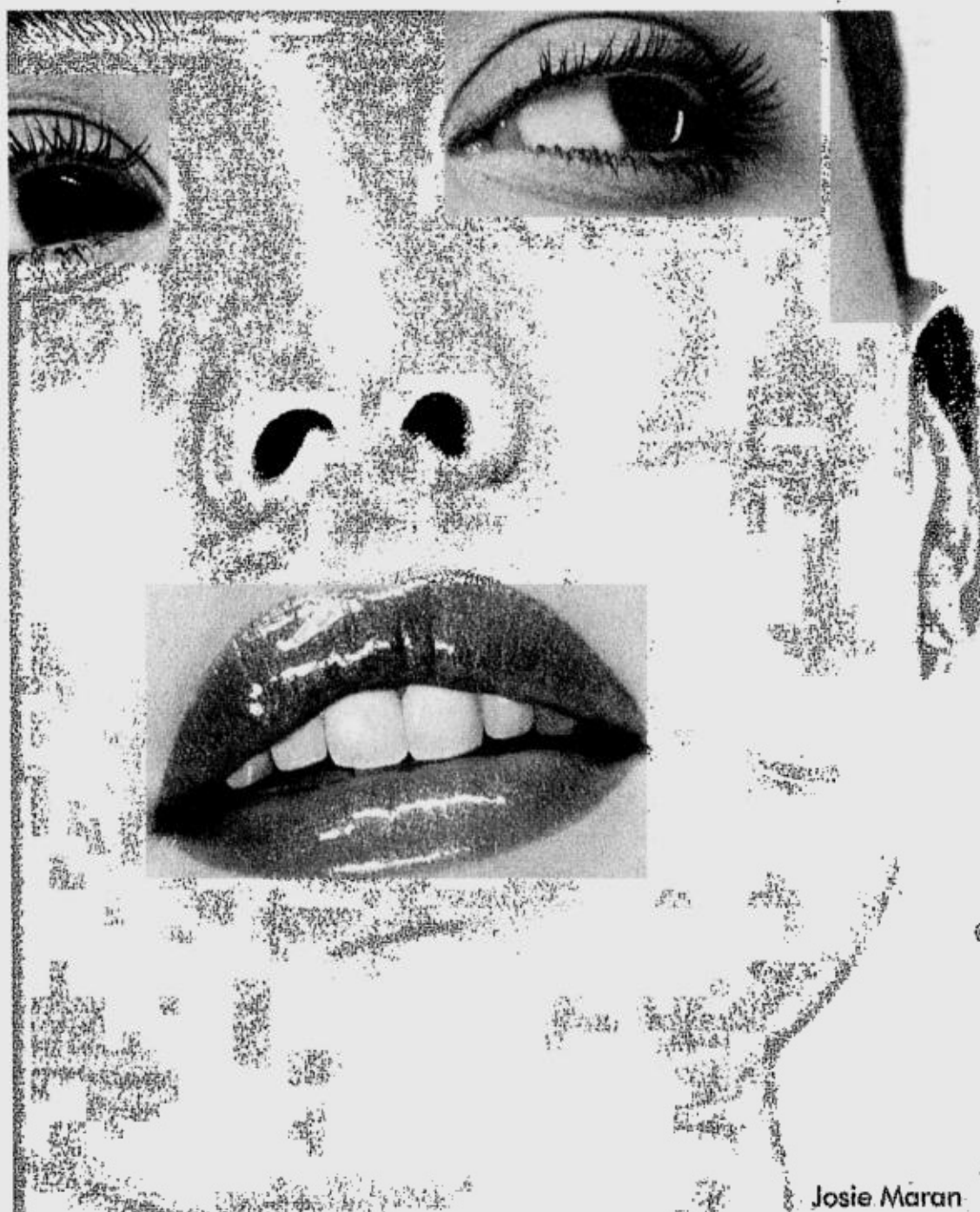
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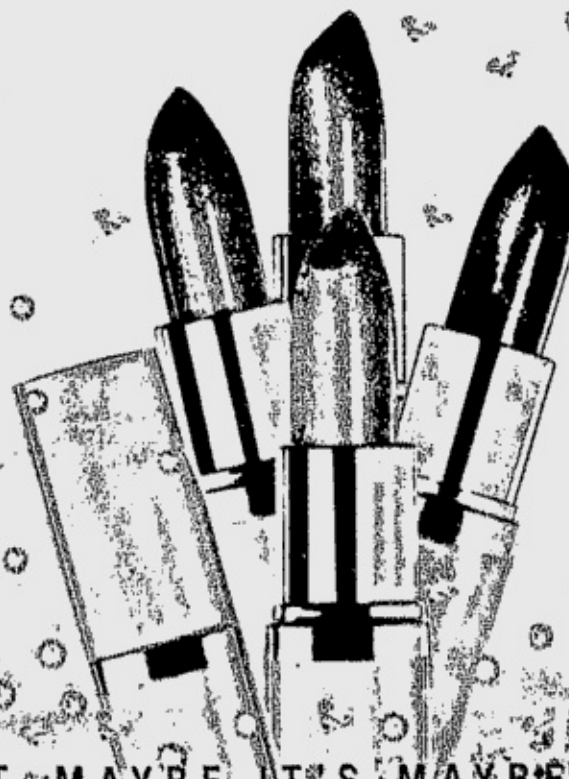


Josie Maran

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Saah man ang nals mong marating,

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Promo period March 8, 2002 - May 31, 2002

Bakasyon para sa iyo. Hatid ng Seaoil.

What is the most stupid sport activity?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

SPORTS requires more than just fab abs, fast legs and muscular arms. After all, playing sports is not only a test of one's physical capabilities, it is also a mind game that involves creative choreography, deep concentration and well-thought-of strategies. Basketball may be phenomenal and gymnastics a gauge of grace and flexibility. But to others, some games are hilarious and have questionable rules and laughable uniforms.

Wrestling is stupid, but I don't even know if it's a sport. People cheat all the time and they still win even if the camera caught all their dirty moves. Wrestlers have stupid names and stupid costumes they're like competing in a beauty pageant.—**Donnel Paulino, 20, UPHR**

There's this women's basketball on cable and it's stupid how they're not allowed to dribble. The ring doesn't have a board or a net. Then again, it's doubly hard to shoot the ball so these girls must be really something.—**Ronnel Mandoedoc, 18, loves basketball**

Golf is amazing and stupid—a small ball to go inside a small hole one can't even see. Hello?!—**Rubin, 21, would love to play basketball if she weren't below 5 ft**

Walkathon. Why walk when you can run? And with the speed of their walking they look like they're running.—**Ian Marck, 24, jogs every morning for exercise**

Boxing is pretty stupid because it promotes fighting and violence. Sure it is a test of strength but there are other ways to prove one's physical capabilities. It's gruesome how the boxers end up sweaty and bloodied after a couple of rounds. It's disturbing how people go crazy and applaud when one gets knocked down, unable to get up again.—**Kuya Tan, 23, anti-violence Christian**

Call me mean but I think synchronized swimming is really stupid and funny. The swimmers look hilarious because of those caps and nose pinchers. I don't even understand why they have to use music when they're just performing something memorized. It's not as if they could hear the music from underwater.—**Jhe, 19, beach lover**

I don't understand why wrestlers have to use creative names and images plus elaborate costumes. For crying out loud, they're supposed to wrestle, not sashay on the catwalk! It's just stupid. Wrestling shouldn't even be considered a sport.—**Jezner Lapuz, 21, WWF fan**

Bowling's pretty lame because the pins are so near one another, hitting at least one is so easy. The pins should have bigger spaces in between them so there'll be greater challenge.—**Elisha Macuja, 22, never tried bowling**

I don't know if chess is really a sport but if it is, it's stupid because there's not a lot of physical effort exerted. It's also boring to watch if you're not really into it.—**Jennifer Castor, 15, prefers checkers**

Table tennis. Why have a smaller version when the players aren't small themselves? Why do it on a table when the court's just outside?—**Re Anne, 22**

Football is stupid because men act like cavemen and they look funny in their uniforms. And I think shoulder pads are hilarious.—**Stephanie Benasa, 14, never wore a shoulder pad in her life**

Sumo wrestling is stupid. I know size counts but other people can be capable of pushing others around without looking like marshmallows.—**Jalou, 25, has a boyfriend named Takoshi who looks like a sumo wrestler**

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

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2. Pinalitan ang hugis-solbong rally coupon, lagdaan, at italik ang proof of purchase (resibo) sa hugis-solbong rally coupon. Isara ang envelope at italik sa dropbox sa mga Seaoil stations.
3. Ang mga entries lamang na matatanggap hanggang Mayo 31, 2002 ang isang rally coupon.
4. Ang rally draw ay gagawin sa June 7, 2002 sa harap ng isang DTI representative sa Seaoil Station - Quezon Avenue Station na gagawin alsa trax ng hapon (3 pm).
5. Ang mga primyong masasali ninyong mapapanalan ay ang:

PARTICIPATING SEAOIL STATIONS:

METRO MANILA: Lantac cor. Gow Fortes • Mayhague Extension, Tutuban Center • Old Panadero cor. New Panadero, Sta. Ana • Amorsento cor. Labo St., Q.C. • Cupang, Muntinlupa • Ortigas Ave. ext. cor. Mario Drive, Calala • Mindanao Ave., Barangay Bahay Toro • Edeas cor. P. Tuzon • Pasig Blvd. • E. Rodriguez, Barangay Dofa Josefa, Q.C. • Quirino Highway, Barangay Galud, Noviliches • Quirino Highway cor. Salva, St. Dominic Subd. • West Service Rd., Merville, Pique • MacArthur Highway, Putero, Marikina • Palatino, Pasig • Tandang Sora, Q.C. • Marikina • Edeas, Quezon Blvd. Q.C. • Prati, Tondo • North Bay, Tondo • Santol, Sta. Mesa • Binangonan, Rizal

PROVINCES: Baler, Aurora • San Miguel Bulacan • Hagonoy, Bulacan • Indang, Cavite • Patuk, Katigay • San Antonio, Nueva Ecija • Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija • Dasol, Pangasinan • Malabique, Pangasinan • Benguet • Muzon, Batangas • Upi, Batangas • Incubutan, Batangas • Cuernavaca, Batangas • Lemery, Batangas • Isabela, Lucena • Sampaloc, Quezon

1ST PRIZE - SOUTHEAST ASIAN TOUR (10 DAYS & 9 NIGHTS IN KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE, BANGKOK) for 2 VIA MALAYSIA AIRLINES* PLUS P 20,000 pocket money.
2ND PRIZE - TRIP TO HONG KONG (3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS) for 2 winning couples VIA PHILIPPINE AIRLINES* PLUS P 10,000 pocket money for each winning couple.
3RD PRIZE - TRIP TO BORACAY (3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS) for 5 winning couples VIA PHILIPPINE AIRLINES*.
4TH PRIZE - EAGLE MOUNTAIN BIKES (20 WINNERS)
5TH PRIZE - MINOLTA C 10 CAMERAS (20 WINNERS)
CONSOLATION PRIZE - P500 SEAOIL GIFT CERTIFICATE (50 WINNERS)

* Ang lahat ng trip prizes ay may kasamang hotel accommodation, roundtrip airfare, roundtrip airport transfers.
6. Ang mga trips non-transferable, subalit koly convertible sa cash. Ang mga prizes na ito ay puwedeng lamang i-aral bago mag-May 31, 2002.
7. Ang bawat entrant ay isang beses lamang puwedeng mamboto. Kapag nabunot ul ang sa pa-rang entry, mabubuwat sa Seaoil Station ang primyong mas masal ang halaga. Bubuhat ul ang rally ng ibang winner para sa kanyang sinamang primya.
8. Ang lahat ng 20% ita sa mga primyong lampas sa P10,000 ang halaga ay babayaran sa ng Seaoil Phils., Inc.
9. Ang mga mamboto ay pasadahan ng registered notice ng Seaoil at makikita rin ang mga pangalan sa isang print out na lalabas sa Philippine

Daily Inquirer at Philippine Star.
10. Ang mga primya ay kailangang ma-claim sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa pag-iitangay ng registered notice. Ang di na-claim na primya ay maituturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil, suluyat sa pag-arriba ng DTI.
11. Ang mga primya ay maaaring ma-claim sa Seaoil Phils., Inc. sa GF Menchen Building, 29 Armasola St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. malapit sa mga pinakalat ang dalawang valid ID at ang registered notice na pinadala ng Seaoil.
12. Ang mga empleyado ng Seaoil Phils., Inc. ng mga sister companies rito, ng kanyang mga dealers at suppliers, at ng Masterminds Asia Communications, haggag sa second degree of consanguinity o affinity, ay di maaaring sumali sa promo na ito. [S]



MAY

Enchanted Kingdom

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Put a twist into your holidays.

Come May, it's time for Mother's Day. On the 11th & 12th, all mothers in red who visit with their families get free return tickets, plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a Mother's Day treat the whole family can enjoy. All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

Softball teaches her some of life's lessons

By Samantha Ulichico
2bUI Correspondent

"Citius-Altius-Fortius/You who wish to surpass yourself,/Fashion your body and spirit to discover the best of yourself/Always go one step further than you aimed for/Faster-Higher-Stronger."—Olympic motto

FIRST started to play softball when I was 12. I didn't even want to play at first, but life is full of odd twists and turns. Suddenly I found myself not only liking and enjoying the sport but loving it as well. I would count the days until my next practice or game, and felt blue when practice was cancelled. Softball quickly became the center of my social life.

This summer, we participated in two tournaments. One was the SEAYB&ST (South East Asia Youth Baseball & Softball Tournament) and the Little League Philippine series.

Five countries, including the Philippines, participated in the SEA. The other countries were In-



SOFTBALL action

donesia (Jakarta), Australia (Perth), Thailand (Bangkok) and Singapore.

We started our team practice in February. It was serious training even from the start. We knew we had a good chance of winning the championship. We were solid and united as a team. Our minds were set and completely focused on one goal—the championship. We knew what we were there for, what was expected of us and what we wanted from ourselves.

We weren't disappointed. After years of playing we finally got a little taste of what Olympic gold

'We might be different in terms of wealth and social status, but on the field we were the same'



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS. The Manila girls celebrating victory

medallists. After all the hard work, it was a special moment to know that at least even just once we were the best. For the first time in the SEA, the Manila girls brought home the trophy and the championship.

Little League in Cabanatuan City was a whole new ball game, though. A writer in one of the newspapers called us the elite—powerful and rich people from Makati, Quezon City and Alabang—"The richest of the rich

playing against the poorest of the poor." That was quite a shock to me. The way I saw it, whether we stayed in a hotel, motel or school-turned-dormitory, we played under the same conditions. We might be different in terms of wealth and social status, but on the field we were the same.

We met old friends who were also former teammates, such as Dione Macasu of Bulacan, Arianne Cruz of Calocan and many more. We also made new friends from Bacolod

City, Bacolod Department of Education and Tanauan, and the other teams that competed. We had our victories and we had our defeats.

Although we didn't earn a place in the standings, I felt we accomplished everything we set out to do, and more.

Softball didn't make me who I am, but it had and still has a major influence on me. It taught me what it means to be a real athlete; to dream dreams and make them a reality.

Young athlete scaling heights

By Zee Castro
2bUI Correspondent

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Ina Flores is a sports climber. She's only been climbing for roughly two years. "A guy who knew me through my brother asked me to compete." And she did. Ina joined the International School Manila Inter-School Competition, and finished in third place. That was in February 2000, when she was just a third year high school student.

At first glance, you wouldn't think that she's a tough athlete. An incoming communication research sophomore at UP Diliman, she's the laid-back, dress down type who lugs her backpack wherever she goes. She's a simple girl who can usually be seen with her friends. Aside from climbing, she enjoys the outdoors, reading books, eating, watching movies, shopping and playing the piano.

Indoor rock climbing was first introduced in the Philippines when the Power Up Center for Climbing and Fitness was opened in Tandang Sora, Quezon City in October of 1994.

Sports climbing usually takes place on relatively short vertical faces, and climbs are usually intense. Climbers usually return to the ground immediately after completing a set route. Taking a route means that you must reach the top of the wall by only using a specific number of holds. Routes are usually for more advanced climbers.

"Finishing a route gives me a sense of accomplishment. Because the way to the top is something I thought about, planned out, worked for, strained my muscles for."

Ina has been a consistent top ranker. She placed first at the Junior Nationals in August 2000,

and placed second the following year. In the 7th National Competition she ranked first in the Open-Speed Category. In April 2002, she won first place at the National Competition in the Difficulty Category.

She climbs three times a week at Power Up. "About three months from a major competition, I do endurance training by doing laps on the wall. Doing laps means climbing up and climbing down continuously. After about a month of endurance training, I shift to some power-endurance training by doing a lot of routes and practicing lead climbing (where you clip your own rope)," she says.

What Ina does is no joke. The walls in Power Up are about 30 ft high, and the ones that Ina climbs have inclines and overhangs.

Ina doesn't have a strict training program but she makes sure that she climbs regularly. "I make it a point to climb a lot when I'm in the gym, so I don't lose the power and endurance. Sometimes I also run before climbing, to serve as cross training."

Last September, Ina was invited to compete in the Asian X games after she ranked first in the Women's Open-Speed Category at the SanMig Light National Sport Climbing Competition held at Glorietta. Ina, along with the first placer of the Men's Open-Speed Category, Kristian Guerrero, and Buddy Advincula, a Philippine Sports Climbing Team member, then went to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Asian X Games Qualifier IV.

Although Ina only ranked 10th in the Speed category and 17th in Bouldering (where athletes climb without a rope) at the X Games, she says that it was a great experience. "Getting to mingle with climbers from other countries showed me just how much more I can push myself as a climber, because their level of climbing is notches above my own!" she says.

"I actually got a lot from the experience alone. Winning didn't

really matter. I didn't feel bad because the other competitors were pros. *Sanay na sila sa international competitions, ako baguhan lang,*" says Ina. She's quite proud that she ranked 10th. After all, it was her first competition out of the country.

When asked if she sees herself climbing forever or if she'll eventually retire, she says, "I guess I'll continue to climb until I'm old because of the workout. I suppose I'll retire from competing but still

climb for the fun of it."

Ina is very compassionate about climbing. "I enjoy the workout—the sweat and flabs (he-he-he!) I lose, the muscles I earn, and the overall feeling that I'm healthy and that I'm up for anything. I enjoy the variety of challenge each route provides. And I enjoy it even more when I get to finish a route or a problem that I'm working on! I enjoy the people I climb with because everyone is very encouraging, help-

ful and supportive."

Ina says the only way to excel is to always love what you're doing. "You have to have a goal, and you need to be driven to attain it, and you should have the discipline to work for it. At the same time not forgetting to have fun. But if you love what you're doing, then you MUST be having fun!"

Visit Ina's home gym at Power Up Tandang Sora. Call 434-8670 and 932-7273.



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JUNE

Enchanted Kingdom

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Here's another round of celebrations.

A flood of celebrations await you in June, starting with Independence Day on the 12th. Wear our nation's proud colors - red, white and blue - and get free return tickets plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." Dads in red get these same privileges on Father's Day weekend on the 15th and 16th. Finally, our Laguna Day celebrations from the 19th to the 23rd give Laguna residents free return tickets and a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a whole month of activities that's sure to leave you dizzy with delight.

*On Laguna Day, visitors who avail of the promo must present proof of residence. All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

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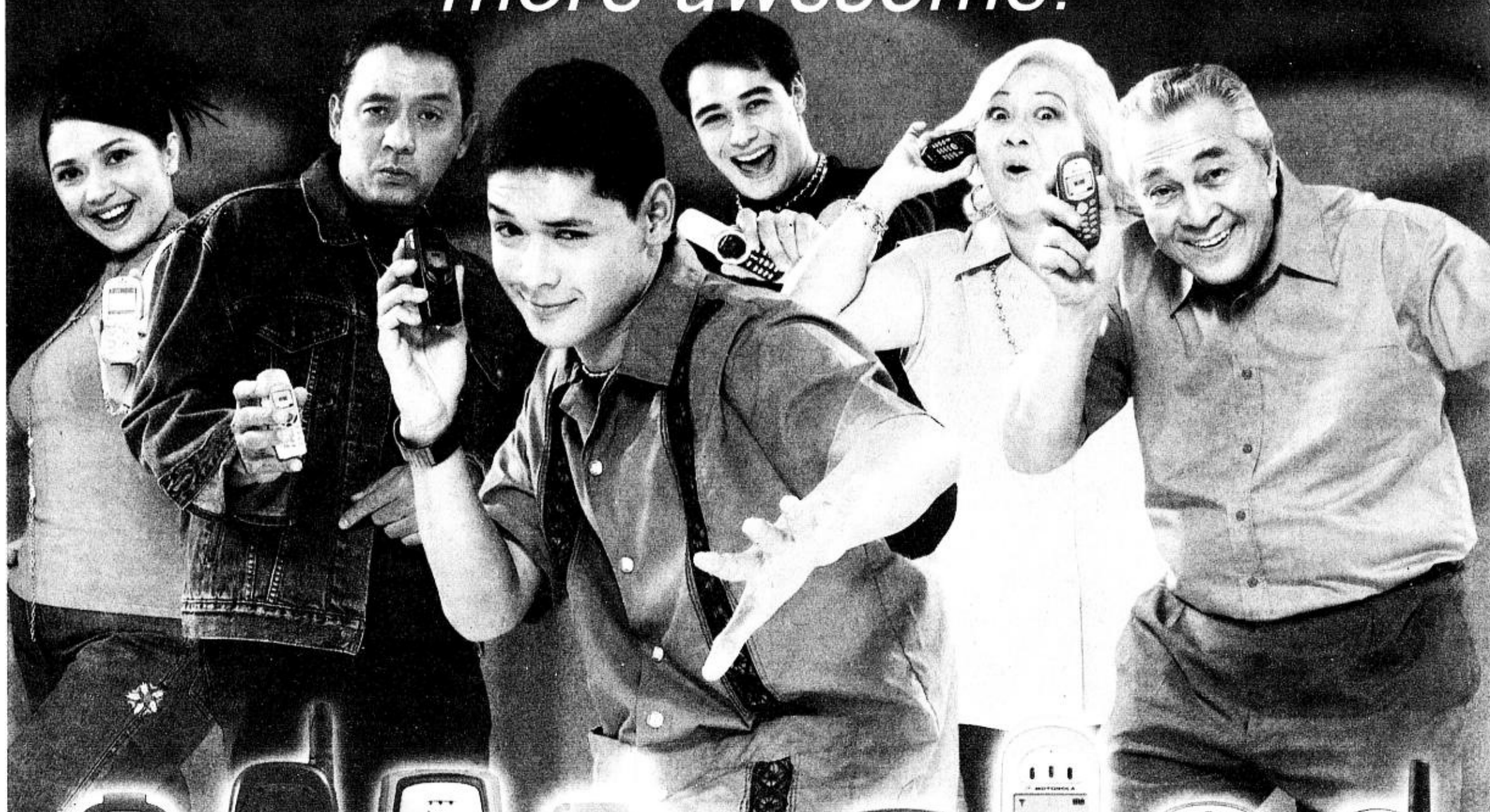
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Samsung N620	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000
Ericsson T66	14,500	13,500	12,500	11,500	9,500
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500
Philips Fisio 820	19,000	18,000	17,000	16,000	14,000
Motorola V70	23,500	22,500	21,500	20,500	18,500

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2,500	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
8,500	6,500	8,000	6,000	9,000	2,000	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
12,000	10,000	9,500	8,500	6,500	5,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	FREE	FREE
13,500	11,500	11,000	10,000	8,000	7,000	6,000	4,000	2,500	500	500
17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000	4,000
17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500	4,500
18,000	16,000	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,500	10,500	8,500	7,000	5,000	5,000
22,500	20,500	20,000	19,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	11,500	9,500	9,500

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Alcatel OT311	3,500	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	2,500	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,390	4,090	3,740	3,290
Trium Mystral GSM	3,500	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	2,500	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,690	4,390	4,040	3,590
Nokia 5210	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	—	—	—	—
Samsung N620	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	3,500	FREE	—	—	—	—
Ericsson T66	14,500	13,500	12,500	11,500	9,500	13,500	11,500	8,500	5,000	1,000	—	—	—	—
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—
Philips Fidio 820	19,000	18,000	17,000	16,000	14,000	18,000	16,000	13,000	9,500	5,500	—	—	—	—
Motorola V70	23,500	22,500	21,500	20,500	18,500	22,500	20,500	17,500	14,000	10,000	—	—	—	—

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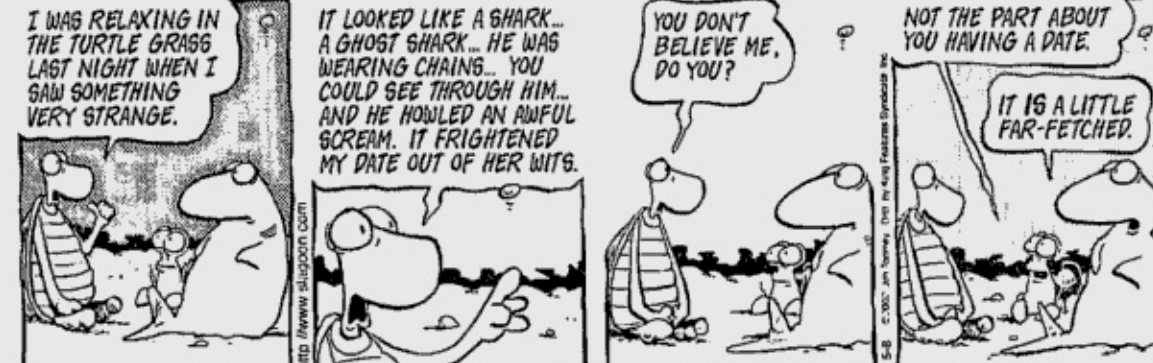


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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melissa Gilbert, Alex Van Halen, Toni Tennille

Happy Birthday: You will have insight into matters pertaining to your work this year. Instability in employment may be unnerving but the end result will be beneficial for you. Greater use of technology will lead to a better position. Your numbers are 2, 14, 25, 30, 34, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your high energy must be directed wisely. Sports events or active social functions will be favorable. Relationships will develop if you deal with people of all ages.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have to keep a close eye and refrain from believing everything that you're told. Deception regarding peers and co-workers could mislead you on vital issues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be extremely active in your financial pursuits today. Travel will enhance your cultural appreciation and bring you in contact with some interesting individuals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is far too much to miss out on if you hibernate today. Get out to events that interest you and you will make new connections both professionally and personally.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your ability to share your thoughts about things you truly believe in will bring you in touch with wonderful allies. Information you pick up just listening to others will be valuable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you least expect may be trying to take advantage of you. Your patience will run thin if you can't get legitimate answers. Focus on the partnerships that mean the most to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This is not the day to be lazy. The more involved you get with your colleagues the better the job will be. You will form a close bond with people who will be there to help you in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It may be the middle of the week but you must get out and be active. Social activities will promote romantic encounters. Involvement with large groups will be beneficial.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Safe investments will be your best bet. Problems with family members will develop if you have been gambling or spending foolishly. Do not take risks or exhaust yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will meet potential partners if you mix and mingle. Get involved in something that you believe in and your contribution will enhance your reputation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to focus on what you have and what you need to hold on to. Financial limitations will set in if you are too generous with others. Give advice but don't make financial promises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be sensitive today. Don't let someone's criticism get you down. If you believe in yourself and your abilities you will go far. Stick to the creative and avoid taking part in an over-indulgent pastime.

Birthday Baby: You will jump into adventurous opportunities. You will be attracted to games of chance. You will like originality and offbeat subjects. You will be artistic, creative & outgoing.

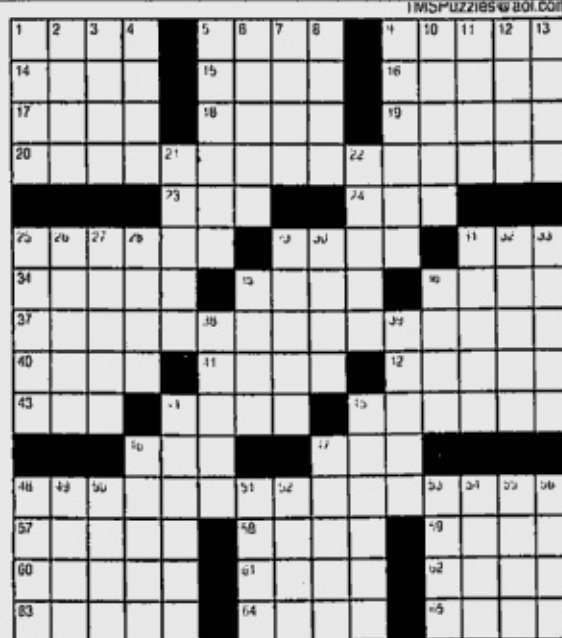
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Hanking
- 5 Help the bad guys
- 9 Phrygian king of lore
- 14 Move to and fro
- 15 Kind of moon
- 16 Go gaga over
- 17 Enunciation problem
- 18 Undressed
- 19 Bast fiber plant
- 20 Came to
- 23 Site for an iris
- 24 Pi follower
- 25 Noisy quarrel
- 29 Not home
- 31 Electric discharge
- 34 Soothsayer
- 35 Heron relative
- 36 Gobi's location
- 37 Considered
- 40 Soaks up rays
- 41 Pull up stakes
- 42 Reduce a betting risk
- 43 Guileful
- 44 Up to the job
- 45 Tubb or Truex
- 46 Mom's counterpart
- 47 Antelope of Africa
- 48 Disturbed
- 57 Gloomy
- 58 Raja's queen
- 59 BMW or Jeep
- 60 Weight-reducing strategies
- 61 Ship's slammer
- 62 Banjo bar
- 63 Fling
- 64 Grape covering
- 65 Subdue

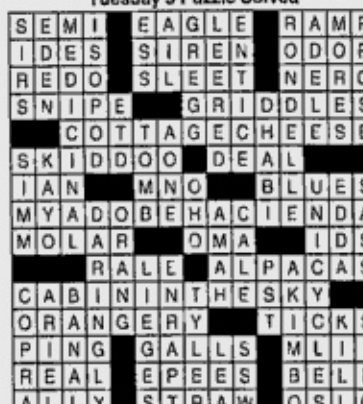
DOWN

- 1 Isolated land
- 2 Castor lo
- 3 Angler's maneuver
- 4 Surflet of publicity
- 5 Monasteries
- 6 Razor's edge
- 7 Continental currency
- 8 Betwixt 12 and 20
- 9 Like the Everglades
- 10 Popular spud
- 11 Capitol top
- 12 Opera highlight
- 13 Bird snack
- 21 Brings up
- 22 Use the delete key
- 25 What really happened
- 26 RFD word
- 27 Extreme discomfort
- 28 Utter expletives
- 29 In a higher place
- 30 Hook, e.g.
- 31 Out of the way
- 32 Wedding exchanges
- 33 Military trainee
- 35 Golden calf, e.g.
- 36 Prayer closer
- 38 Set in deeply
- 39 Landscaping plant
- 44 Strongly opposed
- 45 Annapolis graduate
- 46 Lift the spirits of
- 47 Bottled spirits?
- 48 Contributes
- 49 Dull fellow
- 50 Woodlands ruminants
- 51 Peepers
- 52 British Informer
- 53 Huck Finn's transport
- 54 Atmosphere
- 55 News bit
- 56 Memorandum

By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/8/02

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



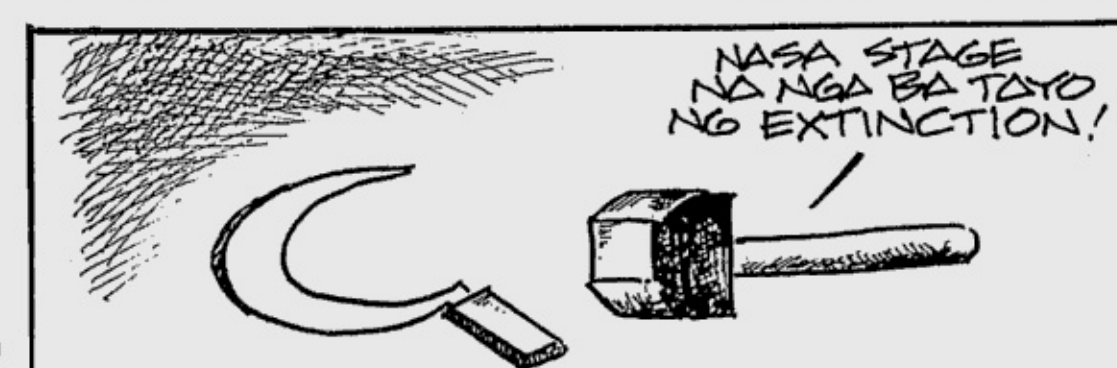
CHICH0Y CHOK0Y

BY IKOY RICIO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





TRIPLE YUM. Tina Pamintuan, Rosanna Escudero and Kimi Johnson
PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO



"I DIDN'T know boy band auditions were this hard," says Nathan Ursua.



RATED R. Ruffa Gutierrez radiates.



FOREVER YOUNG. Timeless Tweetie Gonzales



PHOEMELA Baranda lets us in on a secret.



MYRZA'S SEASON. Cosmo's fun and fearless editor in chief back to the place where her mag was launched five years ago.

A steamy episode 'in the City'

IT'S almost automatic. The minute you see the opening sequence, with fashion's favorite feline of the moment, Carrie Bradshaw, crossing the street and seeing the billboard with her image emblazoned on the bus' façade, all else is forgotten and all eyes and ears are focused on that boob (no pun intended) tube. You know you are up for a fun and fearless ride—with Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha holding the stick (pun intended) shift.



Tim Yap

I don't need to tell you how the HBO top rater has become a cult hit among the city's hot set—each fan has a different reason, purely personal.

The fashionistas follow it because it is a style barometer; it is literally a fashion show unfolding right in front of you, with hip ensembles styled by designer **Patricia Field** (whom I had the pleasure to meet at New York night club Spa some years back; she was popular as a clubwear designer then and she hadn't gotten her "Sex and the City" claim to fame yet, so my partymate thought she was Mrs. Fields, the cookie maker.) Even at that time, her eclectic sense of style captured my eye. With wild orange hair and eccentric get-ups, she embodied what a "funky momma" was all about.

"If you were a character in 'Sex and the City,' who would you be?" would be a popular topic of dinner conversation, with shy giggles or loud guffaws when somebody in the group points at Samantha Jones, known for her uninhibited sexual confidence. Or if one mentions feeling like Charlotte, it is immediately concluded she has a "soft spot" for her partner. Miranda would always be associated with "strong woman" career types, and Carrie, the vulnerable and schizophrenic love and fashion victim in all of us.

Each character is so well written anybody and everybody can relate to the show, because in truth we are just watching ourselves in varying degrees.

Cosmo-philes

There is only one person in this earth who I know doesn't watch the series. "It's too close to home. Why will I watch a show about myself?" said my catty chronicler of a friend who, despite jetting all over the world, was able to make it to the HBO season premiere of the hip series at Venezia last Tuesday night.

Okay, I won't ruin it for those who weren't there by telling you that Samantha fell in lust with a priest (shades of "Last Temptation") and that Carrie celebrated her birthday alone. It was amusing watching the partyphiles at Venezia watching the show altogether as if it was just the family living room.

Speaking of family bonding, I know of these three stylish brothers who would watch the show all huddled up in their blankets. The family that watches "Sex" together, stays together. How's that?

Family matters aside, that steaming Tuesday evening before the May 1 holiday, the city's hip and happening converged, Cosmo-philes (that stands for, yes, the drink and, of course, the magazine, who co-sponsored the event—Cosmo-philes or Cosmopolitan Philippines, get it?), scenesters and celebrities all came (not what you think, honey) to witness the first episode of the season, which airs officially on May 14, 10 p.m.

MyGlobe chick **Joey Mead** hosted the affair and played sexy games with the sexy guests. **Celine Lopez** made a race with herself on how many Cosmos she can down in 10 seconds. **Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales** and Cosmo editor in chief **Myrza Sison** made heads turn, while the towering **Ruffa Gutierrez** "parted the Red Sea" when she made her entrance. Some people noticed the striking resemblance of **Rosanna Escudero** to Charlotte while cousins **Robina Gokongwei** and **Kitty Go** gamely posed for **Eddie Boy Escudero's** lenses.

For those who missed it, the bar tour continues on May 10 at Wasabi, May 11 at Dish, May 17 at Whereelse, May 22 at Fidel and May 24 at Pravda. As they say in telly parlance, "Don't miss it!"

Big beat boutique

THE PAST few days have been sooo hot, literally. So Havana threw its own version of Fiesta del Agua in its Adriatico backyard, complete with water bombs and guns. Wet violence reigned in this San Miguel "Sarap to Sundown" special last Saturday.

This week, as a Manila stop in his Asian tour, DJ **James Lavelle**, who also holds a monthly residency in London hip club Fabric, will be joined by hip-hop-driven big-beat DJ **Touche** at The Boutique and at Fabric. The sound fusion of these two would be a most interesting thing to check out.

The Boutique is one of UK's foremost clubs; it is hosted by **Fat Boy Slim**. It has its roots in Brighton, England.

This NBK event, which also features their resident DJ, **Roman Mojica**, takes place at 78 Orange tomorrow.



SEXY IN THE CITY. Yaba dabba do, Joey Mead, we love you!

WILL the real Mr. Big, please stand up? Troy Montero, Juan Elizalde and Gerard Fabie size each other up.



HBO HOT STUFF. Angie Tan and Caroline Wong from Singapore



PREVIEW SOCIETY. JC Gonzales and Ana Kalaw before breakfast



SHE'S BACK! Kitty Go always arrives in style.



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walking on sunshine	katrina and the waves	N wokonsun
boys	britney spears	N boys
slave for you	britney spears	N slave4u
i love rock 'n roll	britney spears	N ilovroc
clint eastwood	gorillaz	N thereyou
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superman	five for fighting	N superman
this is love	pj harvey	N thislove
volare	jamiroquai	N volare
butterflyz	alicia keys	N butterf
ms. jackson	outkast	N msjackso
b.o.b. (bombs over baghdad)	outkast	N bob
there you'll be	faith hill	N thereyou

We're giving away 4 Nokia 5210s from April 21 to May 19, 2002. To win, send the following to 2375: **summer <full name> <address>**. Example: Summer Alex Santos 141 Mayon St., Quezon City. Don't forget to put a space in between entries. You will receive the icon and automatically join the weekly electronic raffle draw.

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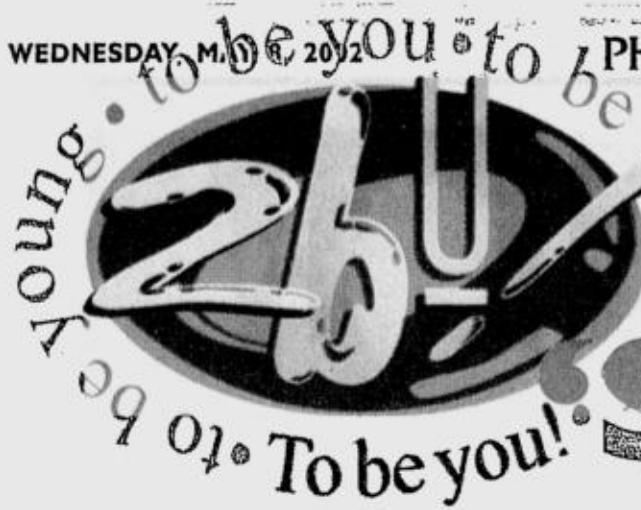
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HANDYPHONE



LIFESTYLE

Single' out your guy

By Pam Pastor

The Philippines' first reality TV show pits single guys against one another in a dating game that allows viewer participation

SOON, all eyes will be on one bachelor—one who will try his luck with a bevy of different women, one who will let the whole nation watch him take a head-on plunge into the world of dating, one who will be making a star or a fool of himself, depending on his luck and charisma.

Dating is difficult enough without

an audience, but here are three guys who deem themselves up and ready for the challenge. Three are willing, but only one will be given the chance. And the decision is in your hands.

These three guys are vying for the lead role in ABC 5's "Single," a new reality TV show. Beginning May 23, audiences will be in for a wild ride—the dating adventures of one of these guys. One thing that may make this show stand out is its interactivity. The audience will play a major role in the development of the story. From something as inane as choosing the single

'SINGLE' / p.D2



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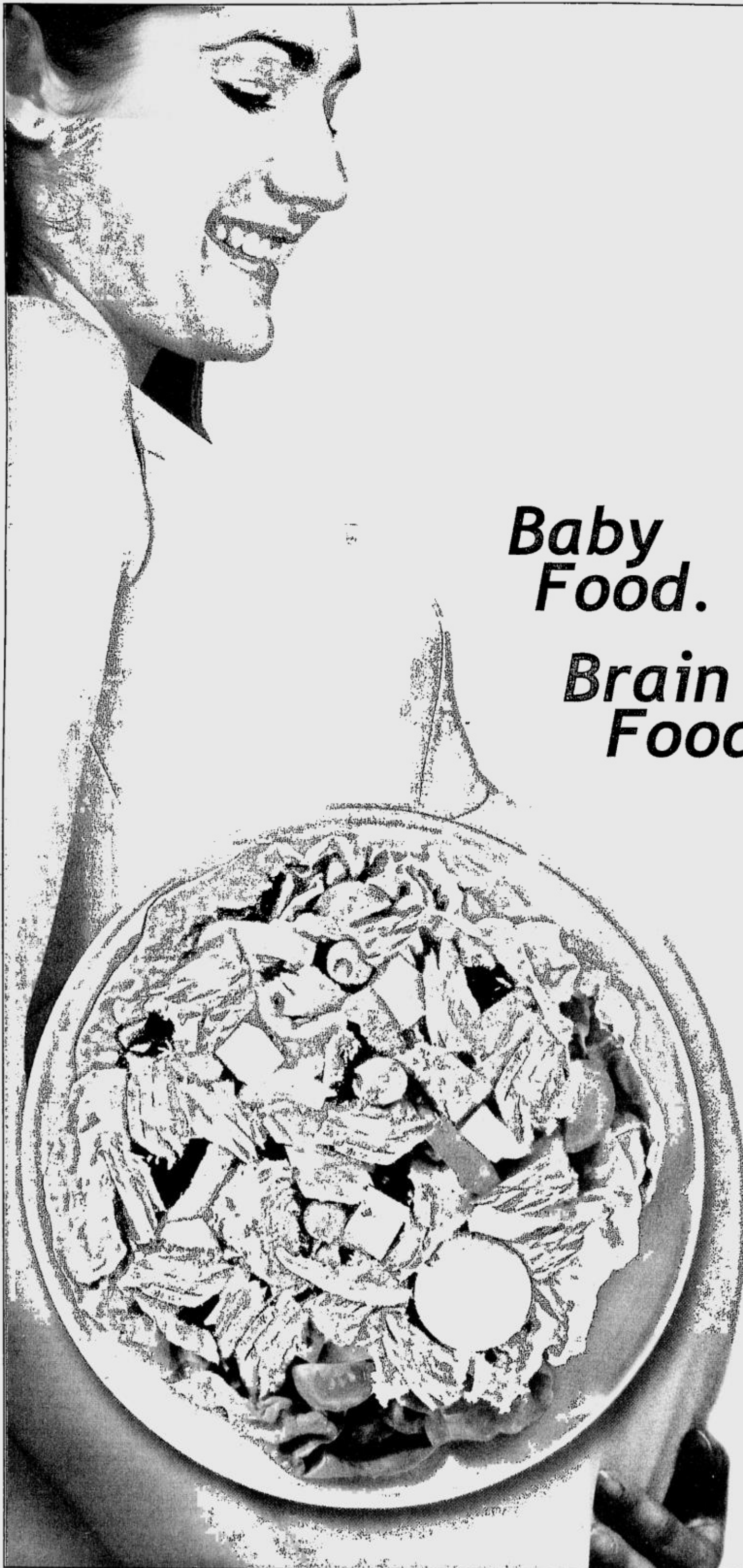
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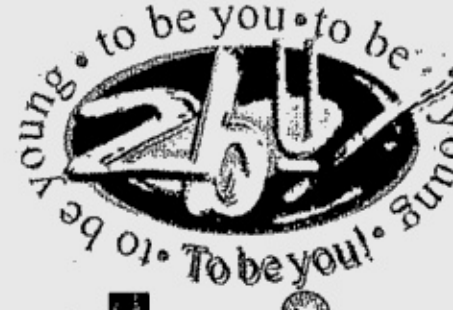
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'Single' out your guy

From page D1

guy's outfit for a particular date to choosing which girl they want him to go out with—the viewers only need to brandish their mobile phones or computer mice and they will be heard.

And what better way to kick off this interactivity than by letting you choose the lucky guy who will become the star of "Single"?

Enter Joel, Marvel and Lee.
The witty Joel Trinidad is a professional theater actor and singer who recently finished writing a musical. "I just met with the composers and the play should be ready for production in a year." He is also a voice talent for radio and TV and a host. This AB Psychology graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University comes out in commercials occasionally, most memorable of which might be his Globe commercial with Joey Mead (yes, he's the yabadabadoo guy).

Marvel Julian is currently busy with work as second assistant director for GMA's new show, "Kahit Kailan." This fresh graduate from UP Diliman's film department is also an actor for short films and a musician. "I did one full-length film, 'Yakapin Mo ang Umaga,' with Cogie Domingo. I play the rhythm guitar and I sing for Red Light, where Cogie is also a member." Not surprising for a member of the UP Power-Lifting team, Marvel also spends a lot of time in the gym. Don't let the weights fool you, this guy is endearing and sensitive.

Ellery Espino grew up in Davao, spent a year in Florida but decided to move to Manila to try to penetrate the city's modeling scene. Lee is also a voice talent and a known wedding host in Davao. "I hosted about 50 or 60 weddings in Davao." Since

then this Communication Arts graduate from Ateneo de Davao resigned from his job in a call center and has become a full-time model. He says he spends a lot of time "going to the mall, going to the mall and going to the mall." This guy is hilarious—he had us roaring with laughter on the road trip back to Manila.

2BU got to know the guys one evening in an exclusive interview at Club Manila East in Taytay, Rizal. But don't let us tell you who to choose. You take your pick.

Describe your ideal girl.
Joel: She has to be beautiful and intelligent, otherwise, what's the point? Beautiful for me is sharp features, but not too mestiza. Mestiza na may halong Pinay. She also has to have a sense of humor.

Marvel: Simple lang. Simple manamit. I don't want her wearing spaghetti-strapped tops, hanggang maaari 'yung Maria Clara type, and 'yung maintindihan ako as a person. Plus points 'pag virgin. Pero kung hindi na, as long as nawala 'yung virginity niya sa mahal niya, mas matatanggap ko. At pahabol, 'yung marunong maglaba.

Lee: My taste varies. Physically, I like Chinese girls. I know pure Chinese people won't accept me. I like the illegal thing of it. I like to break rules. I like Chinese girls, but at the same time, the three most beautiful women I've seen so far are Zhang Ziyi, Cherie Gil and Julianne Moore. Those are three different girls. My taste varies a lot.

Dream date setup.
J: We'll watch a play or a musical or a movie, dinner, drinks and/or coffee. Somewhere quiet. Ideally, dancing would not be involved. I can dance



TAKE your pick.

	JOEL	MARVEL	LEE
Age	33	22	23
Number of ex-girlfriends	8	2	1
Number of previous flings	6	too many	14
Duration of longest relationship	9 years	3 years	8 years
Shortest relationship	a matter of hours	hours	just hours
Number of girls dated in the past month	3	2	0
Are you a player?	No.	A basketball player, not a player player.	A group once called me egomaniac bastard. I'm more of that than a player.
Your dating history in one word	Fun.	Exciting.	Illegal.
Smooch on the first date?	Yeah.	We can kiss all night.	Yeah!
Sex on the first date?	Yes, but I wouldn't be able to take her seriously.	'Pag girlfriend ko na.	No. I like foreplay.
I would never date someone who...	... Smoked.	... Doesn't want to go out with me.	... Doesn't shave her armpits.
The worst thing a girl can do on a date	Be too self-involved.	Get drunk and make the first move.	Whine over her ex.
On girls asking guys out	I applaud it.	Cool.	I like it.
Would you rather be the dumper or dumpee?	Dumpee.	Dumpee.	Dumpee.
Best part of a date	Saying goodbye.	When you open up.	Preparing for the date.
Courtship?	Not the traditional courtship.	I'll court forever.	It's bulls***.
Describe yourself in one word.	Disciplined.	Naïve.	Cocky.

'Dating is like playing chess—it's a mind game'

but I don't really like it *kasi* when you go to clubs the music is too loud and you can't have a conversation. *Kung ideal rin lang*, I'd like to end the evening in bed. That would be nice.

M: *Mahilig ako sa nature trips eh.* I'll just bring along my guitar. We'll walk around. *Okay lang sa UP lagoon* because a lot of things happen in that place. *Maraming nadi-develop du'n. Parinig ko sa kanya mga compositions ko.*

L: An ideal date for me is when I get to cook for dinner in an old house in Vietnam. People usually think Vietnam is a war place, but I know it's really beautiful.

Dream person.
J: Natalie Portman. *Medyo flat-chested lang siya*, but never mind.

M: Supermodel Laetitia Casta and I'll bring two packs of...

L: Jessica Zafra because she is powerful with words. I want to learn a lot from her and I think she would intimidate me. I'm not talking about a physical thing, but I'd like to have a night with Oprah Winfrey. I'd like to hear her talk about herself because I always hear her talk about other people. Physically, I like Angelina Jolie because I heard her walls are made of cushion, that she's wild and she throws her husband on the walls during sex. I'd like to know if that's true.

Tell us about your worst date experience.

J: I've enjoyed every single date I've gone on except one. I was 18 then. A friend wanted to go out with a girl, but she couldn't go out unless she had a friend. I just went there thinking it was a bunch of people hanging out. Apparently, I had a date *pala*. The girl wasn't my type and she was very, very aggressive. The whole night she kept making innuendos. I was very intimidated. Now I can probably laugh that off or *puwede kong saktan*, but at that time I was very uncomfortable because I wasn't attracted to her at all. It wasn't that bad, really, but that was the worst date I've had.

M: I met this girl who modeled in UP. I asked her out. I only had P100. I thought we'd just go to McDo or Jollibee in Philcoa. But she brought me to Chateau Verde. My God, *buti na lang in-order lang niya pasta*. I just ordered a cappuccino. *Kada-dalawang subo P5 isang sip ako. Tina-timing ko. May sukli pang P5.* I went to a friend to borrow money *para makauwi ako*.

L: Back in the US, I dated a girl who was half-Italian, half-Egyptian. We spent the nights and she was talking about her cats. Why the hell would I care about her cats? I like dogs. She was just talking about cats the whole time. I was like, "Oh God, okay, come on..." It was the worst date of my life.

Best date.

J: This girl who was my classmate in college. My God, I could talk about this date for hours. It wasn't what we did, and I didn't really get anywhere with her—I didn't get to kiss her or hold her hand. But she had this thing where she looked at me right in the eyes. This is a tip to all the women in the world, just stare into the guy's eyes. That whole night, I felt that everything I said was the most interesting thing. For the few hours I was with her, I felt like I was the only one in the world with her. And I don't know how she did it. I don't know how she did it in a way that did not make me think she liked me because I don't think she liked me. But she made me feel so special.

M: On Feb. 14. That was my first Valentine's date after five years. I asked her out. *'Yun nga lang may kasama siya*. But still I felt good about it.

L: When I was 15, I brought this girl to this restaurant called Handog, a really classy restaurant in Davao. I was really jologs and the girl was really jologs, too. It was the best date because even now when I remember it I would laugh. She was eating and laughing and she hit the table and all the utensils were flying. Everyone was laughing at her, too. I ate *dinuguan* and *sili*. There was no water. I was turning red. I drank toyo. That was the best date of my life because it still makes me smile.

Give us a short list of dating dos and don'ts.

J: Hygiene, make reservations, pick a nice place. Let her lead. Don't talk too much. Don't come on too strong. Don't slease all over her and don't make the moves *kaagad*. When you're on a date you can feel *naman* how far you can go. Don't go too far. Always be polite, be a gentleman. Just enjoy. Don't try to think too much. Enjoy the magic of the two of you being there in that time at that place.

M: Just be yourself and bring a lot of money. *Mahirap na pag-abonohin mo 'yung babae*. Ask her about herself.

L: Don't talk about politics, religion and about your ex-es.

What's the most romantic thing you've done?

J: I was in Paris in 1997. I was there with a friend—a guy. Paris is so romantic and I was there with a guy so I was getting so frustrated. I was in a

department store, walking around, and there was this gorgeous, gorgeous girl who worked there. She was one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen. I said, I have to talk to this girl. I said to her, "You are the most beautiful woman I've seen in all of Paris. I just had to tell you that." Before I left, I got a long-stemmed rose and gave it to her. I didn't want to taint the memory by asking her name or number *dahil baka she'll freak out pa*. I just wanted it to be a perfect little memory I could tell my grandkids.

M: I had this classmate; her name was Sharon. I thought about her one night and made my first composition called "Sharon Banggi." I invited her to my band's first gig. While I was singing, *iba 'yung feeling*. My composition, our first gig, *tapos napakagandang niya*. *Pero hindi ko siya naging girlfriend*.

L: I don't consider myself romantic at all. According to my officemates, the most romantic thing they've seen me do was make a card out of bond paper and crayons on Valentine's Day. They found it romantic... I don't know. I'm not a romantic guy at all.

How do you feel about a girl paying the bill?

J: Most girls these days would offer to pay, or at least pay their share. I'll say no, I asked you out, I pay. You ask me out, you pay. I always say that but I still pay. Once she's my girlfriend na then we can always dutch, she can pay once in a while.

M: Same. If she asks me out, she pays.

L: Pay for it all you want. It's 2002. Women are totally empowered nowadays. Pay for it. I like it. *Tipid pa sa akin*.

What are your turn-ons?

J: Big boobs. I like a girl who looks right in your eyes when she talks to you, someone who has a sense of humor, small waists, nice skin and long hair. I have this thing with hair—when women play with hair, I love that. That just kills me.

M: *Maputi 'yung armpits*; armpits I can kiss. *'Yun talaga 'yung fetish ko eh*.

L: I like big hips. Boobs—that's a given. Big hips, small waist, big breasts. I like a girl who has so much confidence. You may not be really pretty but if you have confidence, you will shine for me.

If you were to compare dating to a sport, which sport will it be?

J: Any racket sport, such as tennis or badminton, because there's a lot of give and take and you can't do it by yourself.

M: Basketball. There's a lot of effort in playing. It can be a three-point shot, a dunk or *kapas* na tiro. It could be a foul. In the end, either *panalo ka* or *talo ka*.

L: Chess, because dating is a mind game.

When it comes to dating advice, do you give it or ask for it?

J: People always come to me with problems and many of those are dating-related. I'm the kind of person that people open up to.

M: Ask advice.

L: I give advice. I don't ask for advice. I only ask for the meanings of deep English words.

This is your chance to sell yourself. Why should the readers/viewers choose you?

J: When I'm on a date, my first priority is to make the girl have a good time and that's the reason I haven't been on a date I didn't enjoy. If you make somebody have a good time, then you will have a good time. I'm a gentleman. I'm sure we will have a lot to talk about because I read a lot and because most of my close friends do. If you pick me, I'll get to go out on all these dates and I'll do everything in my power to make sure they have a good time. Also, as a performer, I like the attention so I will try to be entertaining for the viewers.

M: I'm single and the show's title is "Single," so bagay, 'di ba? I love to go out and meet a lot of girls. I'm depressed; I'm searching. I think this is going to be adventurous and exciting. I workout so girls will see a lot of sexy guys at the gym. You'll see me interacting with the actors at work and when I go jamming. I'm really searching. So bagay.

L: You should choose me because I'm a chauvinist pig and an ego-tripper and I never met that girl who would break my heart or would intimidate me. I have broken a lot of people's hearts. My life is pretty interesting because I'm cocky. I'll be a pretty interesting character. I think you will find pleasure in seeing me go down—that is, if I go down.

If your band is unsigned and is looking for exposure, "Single" may become your chance to shine. E-mail B Canapi at psychocow@lycos.com.

You may vote for your chosen guy via text or through its website. Send TV SINGLE <name of chosen guy> and send to 2333 for Globe users and 288 for Smart users, or visit www.single.com.ph. Watch the first episode of "Single" (which will include clips of this interview) on May 23, 9:30 p.m., at ABC 5.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

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What is the safest way to get a tan?

LET me make one thing clear. The moment your skin darkens due to sun exposure, photodamage has already occurred. Photodamage is due to sun exposure, when our skin overproduces melanin (the skin's natural pigment and darkening agent). Melanin is our body's natural protection against skin cancer, hence the darker the person's natural skin tone, the less likely s/he is to have skin cancer. People who slather suntan lotions on their body and lie under the sun are actually only blocking infrared and UVA, not the UVB that contributes to premature aging.

What about tanning beds?

They are even worse. Do you know that repeated exposure to artificial ultraviolet light puts you at the same amount of risk for skin cancer, as would a regular sunbather at the beach? Thirty minutes in a tanning bed is equivalent to a full day of sunbathing at the beach. According to Allure magazine researchers at the Karolinska Hospital at Stockholm, Sweden monitored 1,000 teenagers who used tanning beds regularly. These teenagers increased their risk of skin cancer because aside from the fact that they did not use sun protection, they wore a lot less clothes than they would outdoors. They unknowingly raised their likelihood of getting skin cancer 10 times. At the very least, if you must use a tanning bed, slather on Sunblock with an SPF of at least 30.

Why tan in the first place?

It's ironic how, during the rest of the year,



Kinny Salas

people are writing me and practically pleading for a way to have a fair complexion. When summer comes, about the same number of people are asking for the best way to get a tan. There is something about hot weather tied up to more skin exposure and tanning. Benefits of a tan: evens skin tone in an instant; makes you look up to 10 pounds slimmer; masks scars, pimples and cellulite; gives your face more color that requires less make-

up; makes your body look more toned as if you exercised more than you actually have because of the shadows.

As soon as summer comes to an end, the same people text or fax, asking me to turn them light-skinned again. Let me spare you from this seesaw lifestyle.

Fake it. Unless you are naturally tanned, you will want to read on. This is the best because you can actually control how dark you

want to be and you can always just wash it or fade it out if you overdid it.

Bronzers—Women usually don't want their faces to be too dark or as dark as the rest of their body. A bronzer is your best bet. If you have oily skin, wash face well and apply oil control astringents and makeup primer so you will have a smooth canvas to work on. Avoid anything too orange. If you are a beginner, go for bronzing powder instead of creams or gels as the powder looks sheerer and the last two are harder to control. For the sheerest look, apply with a wide brush but tap the bristles before applying. Stroke along cheekbones, hairline and apply with shorter strokes on the rest of the face. If, like me, everything bronze on you turns orange, use a pink brown blush instead. For tan lines on the body, I cover up with bronzing sticks.

Tanners—This is for the rest of the body. A fake tan will fade after two days, so don't panic if you went overboard on color. If you are happy with results, apply every other day. This is hard to control for beginners, and common complaints are uneven deposits of color and streaks. What I do is give myself a thorough body scrub to get rid of dry, flaky dead skin. I use an apricot scrub or mix table salt with my shower gel and give myself a rub down, then I rinse off and dry. I skim my hands on the areas I want tanned and check for uneven rough spots before I apply my tanner. I apply the first coat lightly then wait at least three hours, check my color, then apply a second coat if I still need it.

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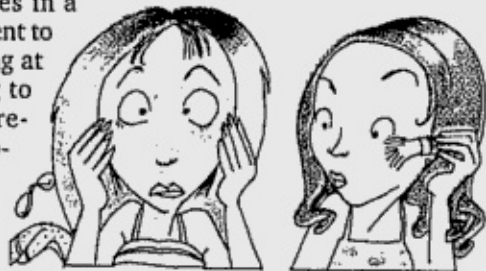


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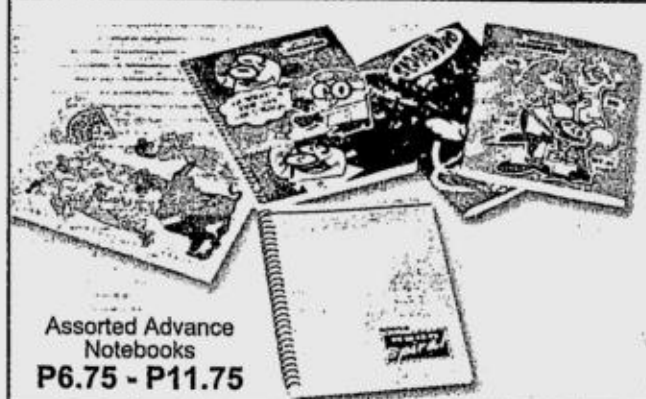


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MOST WANTED. Fila from head to toe

Sweet-faced Donita dons the sporty look

The newest endorser for Fila has been familiar
with the brand since childhood

Text and styling by Ava Arenas
Photos by Mike Alquinto

FASHION that stems from the street, set apart by comfort, originality and attitude, has had quite a following. So it was inevitable that sportswear would find its way back on the streets, and it has never looked so sharp.

Italian sporting label Fila chose the right time to release its new collection and contribution to the new fashion direction. It has chosen as its image model one of Asia's most famous faces, actress and MTV presenter Donita Rose.

The 27-year-old Donita said she was thrilled to be endorsing a label she had been familiar with since she was a child. She added that Fila was ideal for her active routine, which required her to look good and be comfortable at the same time. The crisp colors and boyish cuts of the label made a striking contrast to Donita's doll-like features.

The actress pointed out she had a somewhat athletic lifestyle when not working. She mentioned scuba diving, wake boarding, tennis and skydiving among her favorite sports.

Fila's new campaign focuses on products that remain a natural choice of true sports enthusiasts but are also ideal for those with active lifestyles. Its new designs are aimed particularly at the youth market.

Donita is confident that while she projects a new, more rebellious image in her new endorsement, it will not change the audience's perception of her. But she also admits that she keeps her on- and off-screen images separate so she can do her job without it intruding into her private life.

Combining a pleasant personality with strong views and deep-seated values, Donita Rose seems to be the perfect choice as Fila's new image model.



SPORTY CASUAL. Pair your favorite piece with jeans for a relaxed look.



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LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph or log on to <http://you.inq7.net>

Inexpensive gifts for a special lady

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bUI Correspondent

LET'S face it, times are tough n. As much as we want to treat our moms to a spa or surprise them with a bottle of perfume they've wanted to buy for ages, most of us don't have the money to purchase them. So instead of wishing like mad for money to grow on trees, here are inexpensive but heartfelt ways to show our moms what Mother's Day is all about.

- Prepare a nice breakfast in bed. This isn't something new, but it still puts a smile on mom's face. Better yet, prepare the rest of the day's meals yourself—mom deserves a break.
- Be her chauffeur for a day. Offer your driving services and take Miss Daisy wherever she wants to go.
- Draw her portrait. It doesn't matter if you're not a Vincent van Gogh. As the over-used saying goes, it's the thought that counts. Besides, you just might surprise yourself.
- Make a scrapbook. Blow the dust off boxes of old photos, pressed flowers and memorabilia of hers and organize them into a neat package. Don't forget to ask for her permission in digging her stuff. You can also add some of your own keepsakes, like ticket stubs from a movie you both enjoyed or a perfect paper she helped you with.
- Write her a poem. Hallmark cards are nice, but give her something a little more personal. It doesn't matter if you suck at writing poetry; at least these words are your own, not somebody else's.
- Sing her favorite song. This spells c-h-e-e-s-e, I know, but she just might like it. Let your siblings and cousins in on it and prepare a little show just for her. You can even throw in a dance number just for kicks.
- Make a short film. This need not be so expensive. Borrow a videocam from whoever's willing to lend you one. Seek out family members and friends dearest to your mom (plus yourself, of course) and ask them to say something special about her.
- Prepare a cool dessert. Whip up a special halo-halo just for her and watch her face light up.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com

5 gift ideas to thank Mom

By Michelle C. Pino
2bUI Correspondent

IT'S not every day that we get to show Mommy how much we love her or how grateful we are for having her in our lives. This Mother's Day, we are given the chance to make her feel she is the queen of our homes.

"These are a few of my favorite things." Mommy's most wanted stuff should top your list. Nothing but the best, right? It can be a bottle of her favorite perfume. Shame on you if you don't know her much-loved scent. If you have no idea, sniff around her closet. How about jewelry? Is she into gold or silver, pearls or diamonds?

"I'm on top of the world." Treat her to an all-expense-paid stay at a five-star hotel. Of course, you have to reserve one of those rooms on the highest floor. But with this treat, Daddy has to accompany her.

"Send in the clowns." You want to make her laugh? Take her to one of those bars that feature stand-up comedy shows. Make sure Mommy is up for it. Then again, if she is too classy for comedy shows, reserve front-row seats at a ballet, jazz concert or even a musical play.

"You and me against the world." You haven't talked to her for quite a while. Go out and have dinner in her favorite restaurant. It should be a relatively quiet place, filled with acoustic music where you can discuss anything over dinner. Remember, no awful news allowed.

"I did it my way." Forgot to save for this occasion? You don't have to fret. Precious gifts don't have to be wrapped with pricey ribbons. Bake a cake for her. Cook tonight's dinner. Clean her car. Run multiple errands for her like paying bills, picking up laundry or going to the grocery. She has tirelessly done a number of sacrifices for you. It won't hurt to give a day for her to ease up her work.

E-mail the author at michikookoo@edsa.mail.com.ph



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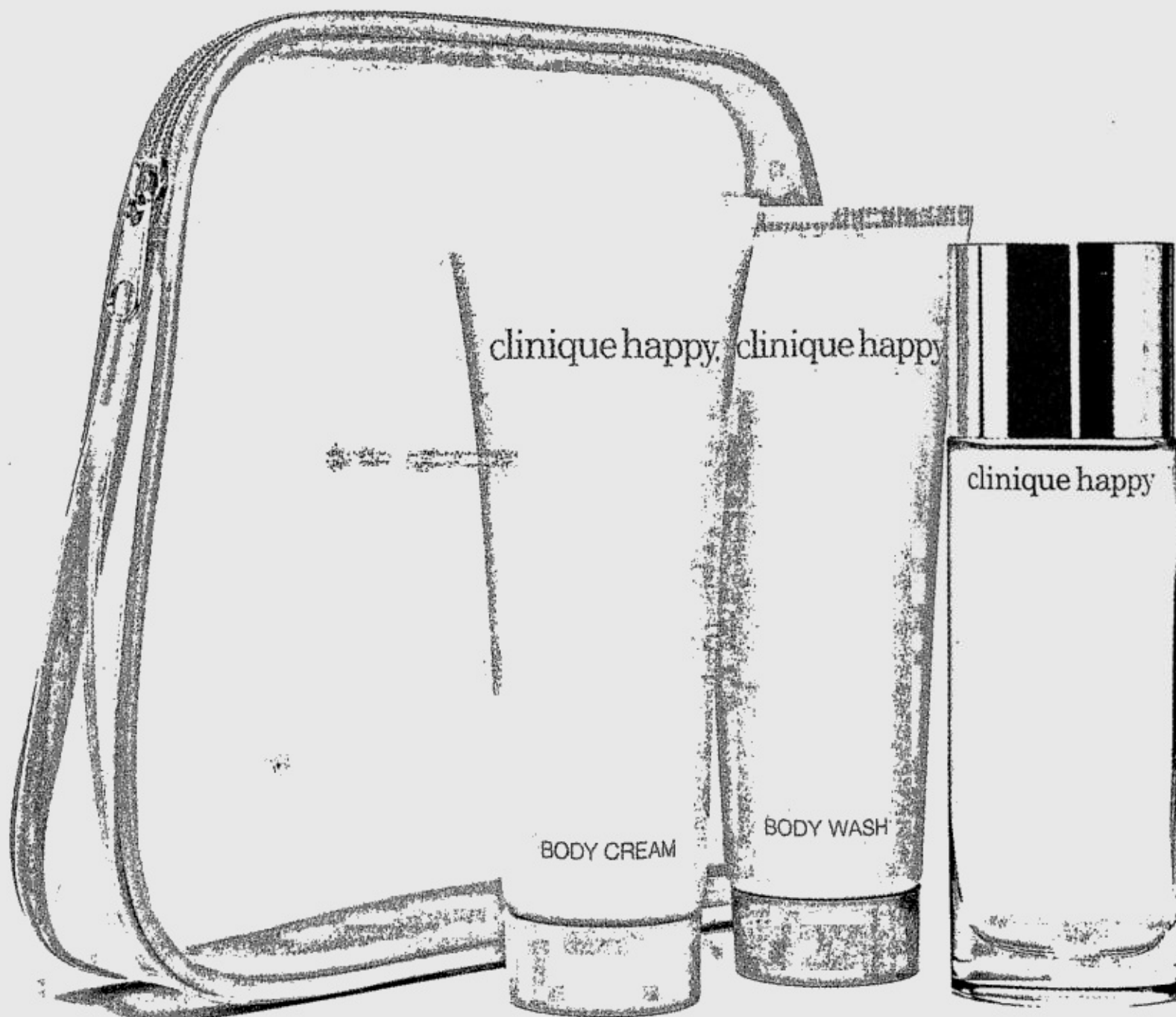
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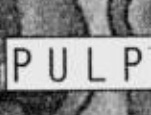
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Letter from a daughter

DEAR Mom,

It's Mother's Day again. But I am not going to make more promises as I do every year. This year is going to be a little bit different. I guess I wasn't always your "best daughter."

Sure we have fights and we have a lot. I honestly don't know what to say. I looked around this morning for pictures to accompany this letter but I couldn't find any. All I saw were mostly pictures of Yasmin with you, Raissa with you and of course, Janina with you. But none with me. I can't blame you if we don't have any pictures, but it really dawned on me that we are not close to each other. Whenever people would see us, they would always blur out how much we look alike. But behind our physical likeness lies the truth that we're not that close. Believe it or not, I wish we were. I wish that I could erase all the mistakes I've done in my life so that maybe, just maybe, we could get a little bit closer.

I can never thank you enough for all the good things you've done for all of us. You may feel that your deeds are left unnoticed

but they're not.

Thank you for all the sacrifices you've made and for everything you gave up just to take care of us. You have been so understanding and good to us. Thank you so much. Remember the time I asked you if all my sisters would kiss you and Dad goodbye whenever you would drop them off? I guess I'm not that sweet, huh? I know that no one really says "I love you" in our family.

It's an unspoken truth, I guess. But this time I'm going to break that rule. I'm doing this the best way I know how. I love you, Mom! Despite all the fights we've had and the ones that we're going to have (wink, wink), I hope you'll always remember that I'm doing everything I can to make you proud of me. I love you, Mom! Happy Mother's Day!

Much love,
SALEEMA

P.S. Sorry about the picture. I couldn't find anything else. We're going to have a picture of us taken, I promise you. I'll kiss you goodbye, too.



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[illegible]

Failure at sports opens new career path

By Maul V. Reyes
2bUI Correspondent

WHEN I was a kid, I undertook the "extra-curricular activities" that every self-respecting preschooler (or grade schooler) participated in.

As a preschooler, my mother enrolled my brother and me in a gymnastics program. I don't remember much of it, only that I would jump on huge mats during my spare time and bawl my eyes out when I couldn't do a simple turn on a beam of sorts (it scared the living daylights out of me). At the tender age of 5, my mom put me in a ballet class. Tutus and pointy shoes with pink lace didn't really appeal to me—I was a self-proclaimed tomboy and, after about a year of attempting to stretch my leg out as far as I could, I gave up on those strappy ballet slippers. I didn't like spending my Saturdays in the school's studio either.

There were also the summer lessons. My mother insisted I needed to learn how to play the piano because one, we have a piano collecting dust in the living room, and two, it would come in handy one day. When I didn't know. But piano lessons were ditched after about eight months of pounding on the keys and making up excuses for why I wasn't able to practice the latest piece. I convinced myself that I was tone deaf and would never become the next Beethoven—or even just the next Yanni. Next on the list were swimming lessons. I didn't get much out of it since I already knew how to swim in the first place.

The thing was, I was a tomboy at heart. While my classmates were collecting fruit-scented erasers and Hello Kitty paraphernalia, I was saving up my allowance to buy Nintendo cartridges. My favorite game at that time was baseball. I never really understood basketball, football, or even pool then—but by playing baseball on that cream and red console, I learned the rules and wanted to play the real game.

Making a choice

By the time I hit middle school, I was determined to make my own choice of extra-curricular activity. I was convinced that, being less feminine than the other girls, I was meant to dabble in sports. This was around the time when I was having a hard time at school and with my peers, so I desperately needed an extra-curricular activity that suited me, and would keep me busy. I knew in my heart that sport was the way to go.

When the movie "3 Ninjas" was shown, I begged my mom to enroll me in tae kwon do classes, which turned out to be a total disaster. Not only could I not reach my toes when I bent

down (eliciting snickers from other students), but I could not memorize all the combinations and the different kinds of kicks. Needless to say, I didn't stay long enough to earn even a white belt. I didn't even get my uniform.

When I started showing an interest in music, my mother wanted me to take singing lessons. But I hated every minute of it and thought it was stupid. When I got asthma, I saw it as an excuse to discontinue belting out Alanis songs to a total stranger. Besides, I just started high school, and my first ever high school physical education activity was softball.

I anticipated reliving my Nintendo Family Computer days. I was going to wear a helmet and a softball uniform, and score home runs as easily as I did on the little screen. I was going to be sporty. I was going to be athletic.

What I ended up being was disappointed and humiliated, ready to burn my Family Computer console.

Reality bites

I was terrible and that is an understatement. I was afraid of the ball, the school bullies made fun of me for not taking to the sport right away, and I barely passed the subject.

I would not accept failure in sports. I went to a mall's ice skating rink and signed up for ice hockey. If I didn't do well in baseball, I would be good in hockey. All I had to do was skate on ice and hit a puck, right? Wrong. I couldn't stop when I had to, couldn't hit the puck right, and the little kids scooted right ahead of me even before I could place my stick on the ice. I finished all eight sessions, though—but my greedy coach, who played favorites, flunked me.

I accepted defeat. But instead of feeling miserable over my inability to kick ass like a ninja or run like the wind after scoring a home run, I decided to expand my horizons. My friend Amanda and I enrolled in jazz classes, but got a refund after three sessions. We decided it wasn't for us, as we proclaimed we were Saturday couch potatoes and would rather spend time in a movie house than sweating in a studio.

All this time I was lamenting not being as athletic as the next person, I was also writing. I was writing in my journals, penning short stories and an occasional poem. I would write to authors and receive replies. I did not become part of the school newspaper—the entrance test fried my brains and, I think, they were looking for more serious writers than feature journalists. I wrote for another broadsheet before the INQUIRER, and submitted my works to various publications.

It is said when a door closes, a window opens. In my case, I don't think the door to the world of sports was shut. I think a window was slammed but the door to journalism and

I was convinced that, being less feminine than the other girls, I was meant to dabble in sports

self-expression swung open.

I may have failed to earn a Most Valuable Player award, but I think I got a pretty fair exchange. While athletes are downing Gatorade at track meets, I chug down the stuff while backstage at a P.O.D. concert. On Saturdays, while swimmers spend hours doing backstrokes, I'm at home talking to the likes of Garbage on the phone. As for missing the great workout sporty chicks get, if you see me in a rock concert you realize I get to burn up

as much carbo as the others.

I haven't really given up on my dream to be athletic. I like a good run once in awhile, and I never say no to a game of softball. But I think I'll leave hurdle-jumping, tennis-slammings, basketball-dunking and other tough games to the pros.

I'm better off with their computer versions.

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com

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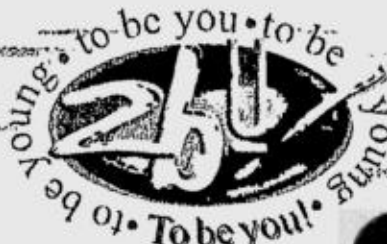
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'In the Zone' is an interactive program that promises to inject the excitement of sports into radio programming

Sports show may change face of AM radio

By Tintin Z. Gamboa

PICTURE this. You're stuck in rush-hour traffic on your way to school or work. You're cranky, you're groggy and you haven't quite left the weekend state of mind yet. You've gone through all your favorite radio stations on the FM band and all you hear are the same old boring songs and the same old run-of-the-mill topics.

I just discovered something that would change the face of radio forever, and it's on the AM band. Open your minds for a while

and forget the preconceived notions you may have about AM radio. Check out the station Sports Radio 918 AM dzSR and you'll know what I mean.

Sports radio stations are among the most popular in major cities in the United States, surpassing the popularity of even FM stations. Filipinos are passionate enough about sports for a full sports radio station to find its niche in the country. That's why dzSR's new show called "In the Zone" is exactly what the Pinoy sports fans needs to start their week on the right note.

"In the Zone" is an interactive sports radio program that airs on Sports Radio every Monday, 8-10 a.m. The program's interactive na-

ture presents various ways in which listeners can get in touch with the hosts. Thanks to SMS, listeners can send comments and even vote in radio polls. They can also participate in the endless array of topics posted in PinoyExchange.com, the country's leading online community. There are over 11,000 topics in the different sports forums with some 50,000 members.

The roster of hosts includes:

Jude Turcuato. Known for his trademark "Kaboom!" line in the UAAP basketball coverage. This show is his brainchild. Coincidentally, he is also president of PinoyExchange.com, an iAyala-backed website.

TJ Manotoc. One of the most popular an-



FROM left: Jude, Pia and TJ

chors of the Viva Vintage team who regularly covers the PBA games. A poll among the members of PinoyExchange shows he has a big following. He's also the editor in chief of Forward Magazine.

Pia Guanilo. Her pretty face greets us every morning when we watch "Alas Singko y Media" on ABS-CBN. She's also the host of "Review Night."

Tricia Chiongbian. A popular Studio 23 VJ and one of the hosts of "GamePlan."

"In the Zone" promises to be very fast-paced, lively, entertaining and modern," says Tricia. "What I like about it is there's a healthy debate going on all the time," Pia says. "It's not just a reportage of who did what, and who won what. There's a whole lot of discussion going on."

Imagine eavesdropping on a barkada in Starbucks having a heated debate about whether or not the National Team can get past China in the coming Asian Games. Then suddenly, guess who drops in? Coach Jong Uichico! That's what the show is all about. A group of friends with a profound love for sports and willing to share their passion with the world.

A couple of weeks ago, Commissioner Chito Loyzaga talked about the MBA and reminisced about the legendary Toyota-Crispa rivalry. Recently racing fans enjoyed hearing from champion racecar driver Angelo Baretto. In the future, the show will feature world-famous boxers Manny Pacquiao, Luisito Espinosa and Gerry Peñalosa, as well as world-class athletes Paeng Nepomuceno, Efren Bata Reyes, Dorothy Delasin and Django Bustamante.

Now, does AM radio still sound dull and boring? For comments and suggestions, get in touch with "In the Zone" by e-mailing itz@pinoyexchange.com. You may also key in PEX ITZ <message> on your cell phones. Send your message to 2333 if you're a Globe subscriber, and 2443 if you're with Smart.

Sportsmen become the new heroes

By Catherine Young

2bU! Correspondent

GONE are the days when sports were restricted to the playing field. Athletes are venturing out of the gym and are being seen everywhere. What used to be just something people did to pass the time has become big business and a way of life for many people.

It's easy to see why sports now affect many aspects of people's lives. Fans troop to stadiums every season to root for their favorite team.

Sports terms have become part of many kids' vocabularies. Basketball cards have become more popular—and more expensive.

Athletes have become as popular as entertainment personalities—as product endorsers, including those that may or may not have anything to do with their sport. Of course, they are still more likely to promote shoes and sportswear, with many people enticed to buy the products in the hope they could be as agile as the athlete endorser.

Athletes have become the idols of our time. It sometimes seems unfair that fame comes naturally to them while others, like performers, need good packaging to get noticed. Being proficient in sports is enough recommendation for many people. We have an almost spontaneous admiration for athletes even if we know very little about the sport they play; even the most fanatic fan gives a little respect to the opposing team. On the other hand, performers may have to wait years to achieve even just everyone's quota of 15 minutes of fame.

Even scandal doesn't seem to lessen an athlete's pulling power; nor, apparently, does time. Mike Tyson's misdemeanors might have made him controversial, but not less famous. Michael Jordan has retired a number of times but his fame remains undiminished.

But performers only have to fail once to come up with a follow-up to a hit before they are replaced by some new wunderkind.

Kinetic smarts

We now respect physical dexterity almost as much as we respect for brainpower. In a world that usually gives a lot of weight on intelligence, it's refreshing to see people excelling in motor skills and receiving admiration for their accuracy, precision and speed. Of course, seeing a soccer legend score is more visually gratifying than watching someone take an IQ test.

A game is often like life itself. During a game, split-second opportunities come and go. It takes timing and skill to take advantage of them. The game has a protagonist, a villain and a goal. The athlete becomes our alter ego. We vicariously share his/her ups and downs and the game becomes our fantasy. When an athlete loses, we feel the loss ourselves, which should probably explain why violence erupts during competitions. But, as in life, we also know that even if we lose there will be another game and another chance to win.

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